

and they spent the whole evening in singing the best piece of musique, counted of all hands in the world, made by Seignor Charissimi the famous master in Rome. Fine it was endeed, and too fine for me to judge of. They have spoke to Pedro to meet us every week, and I fear it will grow a trouble to me if we once come to bid guests to meet us, especially idle masters – which doth a little displease me to consider. They gone, comes Mr. Lanyon, who tells me Mr. Alsop is now become dangerously ill and fears his recovery, which shakes my expectation of 300 per annum by that business. And therefore bless God for what Mr. Gauden hath sent me; which from some discourse today with Mr. Osborne, swearing that he knows not anything of this business of the victualling but the contrary, that it is not that that moves Mr. Gauden to send it me, for he hath had order for it any time these two months. Whether this be true or no, I know not; but I shall hence with the more confidence keep it. To supper and to the office a little and to walk in the garden, the moon shining bright and fine warm fair weather. And so home to bed.

23. Walked toward Westminster; and being in an idle and wanton humour, walked through Fleet alley, and there stood a most pretty wench at one of the doors. So I took a turn or two; but what by sense of honour and conscience, I would not go in. But much against my will, took coach and away to Westminster hall, and there light of Mrs. Lane and plotted with her to go over the water; so met at Whites stairs in Channel row, and over to the old house at Lambeth marsh and there eat and drank and had my pleasure of her twice – she being the strangest woman in talk, of love to her husband sometimes, and sometimes again she doth care not for him – and yet willing enough to allow me a liberty of doing what I would with her. So spending 5 or 6s. upon her, I could do what I would; and after an hour's stay and more, back again and set her ashore there again, and I forward to Fleetstreet and called at Fleet alley, not knowing how to command myself; and went in and there saw what formerly I have been acquainted with, the wickedness of those houses and the forcing a man to present expense. The woman, endeed, is a most lovely woman; but I had no courage to meddle with her, for fear of her not being wholesome, and so counterfeited that I had not money enough. It was pretty to see how cunning that Jade was; would not suffer me to have to do in any manner with her after she saw I had no money; but told me then I