

Having done, and taken from Sir W. Coventry the minutes of a letter to my Lord Treasurer, Wayth and I back again to the office. And thence back down to the water with my wife, and landed him in Southworke, and my wife and I for pleasure to Foxhall, and there eat and drank, and so back home; and I to my office till midnight, drawing the letter we are to send with our account to my Lord Treasurer; and that being done to my mind, I home to bed.

26. By Mr. Dugdale I hear the great loss of books in St. Pauls churchyard, and at their hall¹ also – which they value at about 15000*l*; some booksellers being wholly undone; and among others, they say, my poor Kirton. And Mr. Crumblum, all his books and household stuff burned; they trusting to St. Fayths, and the roof of the church falling, broke the Arch down into the lower church, and so all the goods burned – a very great loss. His father hath lost above 1000*l* in books – one book newly-printed, a discourse it seems of Courts.

27. A very furious blowing night all the night, and my mind still mightily perplexed with dreams and burning the rest of the town – and waking in much pain for the fleet. Up, and with my wife by coach as far as the Temple; and there she to the mercer's and I to look out Penny, my tailor, to speak for a cloak and cassock for my brother, who is coming to town and I will have him in a canonical dress – that he may be the fitter to go abroad with me.

28. Lay long in bed, and am come to agreement with my wife to have Mercer again, on condition she may learn this winter two months to dance, and she promises me she will endeavour to learn to sing; and all this I am willing enough to. So up, and by and by the glazier comes to finish the windows of my house, which pleases me, and the bookbinder to gild the backs of my books. I got the glass of my book-presses to be done presently, which did mighty content me. And to setting my study in a little better order; and so to my office to my people busy about our Parliament accounts; and so to dinner – and then at them again close. At night comes Sir W. Penn, and he and I a turn in the garden, and he broke to me a proposition of his and my joining in a design of fetching timber and deals from Scotland by the help of Mr. Pett upon the place; which

1. The booksellers': sc. Stationers' Hall.