

I am glad with all my heart that I am not so, for it would never please me to be forced to the attendance that that would require, and leave my wife and family to themselves, as I must do in such a case; thinking myself now in the best place that ever man was in to please his own mind in, and therefore I will take care to preserve it. So to bed, my cold remaining, though not so much, upon me.

4. By coach to Whitehall to the Council chamber; and there met with Sir W. Coventry going in, who took me aside and told me that he was just come from delivering up his seal and papers to Mr. Wren; and told me he must now take his leave of me as a naval man, but that he shall always bear respect to his friends there, and particularly to myself, with great kindness, which I returned to him with thanks; and so with much kindness parted, and he into the Council. I met with Sir Sam. Moreland, who showed me two orders upon the Exchequer, one of 600*l* and another of 400*l*, for money assigned to him, which he would have me lend him money upon and he would allow 12 per cent. I would not meddle with them, though they are very good; and would, had I not so much money out already on public credit. But I see by this, his condition will always be bad. I stayed and heard Ald. Barker's case of his being abused by the Council of Ireland touching his lands there. All I observed there is the silliness of the King, playing with his dog all the while, or his codpiece, and not minding the business, and what he said was mighty weak; but my Lord Keeper I observe to be a mighty able man. The business broke off without any end to it, and so I home and thence with my wife and W. Hewer to Bartholomew fayre and there saw *Polichinelli* (where we saw Mrs. Clerke and all her crew); and so to a private house and sent for a side of pig and eat it at an acquaintance of W. Hewer's, where there was some learned physique and Chymical Bookes; and among others, a natural Herball, very fine. Here we stayed not; but to the Duke of York's playhouse and there see *Mustapha*, which the more I see, the more I like; and is a most admirable poem – and bravely acted; only, both Batterton and Harris could not contain from laughing in the midst of a most serious part, from the ridiculous mistake of one of the men upon the stage – which I did not like. Thence home, where Batelier and his sister Mary came to us and sat and talked; and so they gone, we to supper and to bed.

11. Mr. Moore discoursed with me of public matters; the sum of