

been spilt, but a great many houses pulled down; and among others, the Duke of York was mighty merry at that of Damaris Page's, the great bawd of the seamen. And the Duke of York complained merrily that he hath lost two tenants by their houses being pulled down, who paid him for their wine licences 15*l* a year. But here it was said how these idle fellows have had the confidence so say that they did ill in contenting themselves in pulling down the little bawdy houses and did not go and pull down the great bawdy house at Whitehall. And some of them have the last night had a word among them, and it was "Reformation and Reducement!" This doth make the courtiers ill at ease to see this spirit among people, though they think this matter will not come to much; but it speaks people's mind. And then they do say that there are men of understanding among them, that have been of Cromwell's army; but how true that is I know not.

26. Up betimes to the office, where by and by my Lord Brouncker and I met and made an end of our business betimes; so I away with him to Mrs. Williams's and there dined, and thence I alone to the Duke of York's House to see the new play called *The Man is the Maister*, where the house was, it being not above one a-clock, very full; but my wife and Deb being there before with Mrs. Pierce and Corbett and Betty Turner, whom my wife carried with her, they made me room; and there I sat, it costing me 8*s.* upon them in oranges, at 6*d.* apiece. By and by the King came and we sat just under him, so that I durst not turn my back all the play. The play is a translation out of French, and the plot Spanish; but not anything extraordinary at all in it, though translated by Sir W. Davenant; and so I found the King and his company did think meanly of it, though there was here and there something pretty; but the most of the mirth was sorry, poor stufte, of eating of sack-posset and slabbering themselves, and mirth fit for Clownes. The prologue but poor; and the epilogue, little in it but the extraordinariness of it, it being sung by Harris and another in the form of a ballet. Thence by agreement, we all of us to the Blue Balls hard by, whither Mr. Pierce also goes with us, who met us at the play; and anon comes Manuel and his wife and Knipp and Harris, who brings with him Mr. Banester, the great maister of Musique. And after much difficulty in getting of Musique, we to dancing and then to a supper of some French dishes (which yet did not please me) and then to dance and sing; and mighty merry we were till about 11 or