

very poor, cold, insipid answer: “Why, why do they go to them, then?”, and that was all, and had no mind to go on with the discourse.

Mr. Creed and I to dinner to my Lord Crew, where little discourse, and there being none but us at the table and my Lord and my Lady Jemimah. And so after dinner away, Creed and I, to Whitehall, expecting a committee of Tanger, but came too late. So I to attend the Council, and by and by were called in with Lord Brouncker and Sir W. Penn to advise how to pay away a little money to most advantage to the men of the yards, to make them despatch the ships going out; and there I did make a little speech, which was well liked. And after all, it was found most satisfactory to the men and best for the King’s despatch, that what money we had should be paid weekly to the men for their week’s work, until a greater sum could be got to pay them their arrears and then discharge them. But Lord, to see what shifts and what cares and thoughts there was imployed in this matter, how to do the King’s work and please the men and stop clamours, would make a man think the King should not eat a bit of good meat till he hath got money to pay the men – but I do not see the least print of care or thoughts in him about it all. Having done here, I out and there met Sir Fr. Hollis, who doth still tell me that above all things in the world he wishes he had my tongue in his mouth; meaning, since my speech in Parliament. He took Lord Brouncker and me down to the guards, he and his company being upon the guards today; and there he did, in a handsome room to that purpose, make us drink, and did call for his Bagpiper; which, with pipes of ebony tipped with silver, he did play beyond anything of that kind that ever I heard in my life. And with great pains he must have obtained it, but with pains that the instrument doth not deserve at all; for at the best, it is mighty barbarous music. So home, and there to my chamber to prick out my song, *It is decreed*, intending to have it ready to give Mr. Harris on Thursdy when we meet for him to sing, believing that he will do it more right then a woman that sings better, unless it were Knipp – which I cannot have opportunity to teach it to.

25. The Duke of York and all with him this morning were full of the talk of the prentices, who are not yet down, though the Guards and militia of the town have been in arms all this night and the night before; and the prentices have made fools of them, sometimes by running from them and flinging stones at them. Some blood hath