

"a good maister to me" (these were his words about my eyes) and doth like of my going into Holland, but doth advise that nobody should know of my going thither – but pretend that I did go into the country somewhither – which I liked well. Glad of this, I home; and thence took out my wife and to Mr. Holliards about a swelling in her cheek, but he not at home; and so round by Islington and eat and drink; and so home and after supper, to bed.

24. To Whitehall, and there all the morning, and thence home; and giving order for some business, and setting my brother to making a catalogue of my books, I back again to W. Hewer to Whitehall, where I attended the Duke of York and was by him led to the King, who expressed great sense of my misfortune in my eyes, and concernment for their recovery; and accordingly signified not only his assent to my desire therein, but commanded me to give them rest this summer, according to my late petition to the Duke of York. W. Hewer and I dined alone at the Swan, and thence, having thus waited on the King, spent till 4 a-clock in St. James's park, when I met my wife at Unthankes and so home.

29. *The King's birth day.* To Whitehall, where all very gay; and particularly, the Prince of Tuscany very fine, and is the first day of his appearing out of morning since he came. I heard the Bishop of Peterborough preach, but dully; but a good anthem of Pelham's. Home to dinner, and then with my wife to Hyde park, where all the evening great store of company, and great preparations by the Prince of Tuscany to celebrate the night with fireworks for the King's birthday; and so home.

30. *Whitsunday.* By water to Whitehall, and thence to Sir W. Coventry, where all the morning by his bedside, he being indisposed; our discourse was upon the notes I had lately prepared for commanders' instructions; but concluded that nothing will render them effectual without an amendment in the choice of them, that they be seamen, and not gentlemen above the command of the Admiral by the greatness of their relations at Court. Thence to Whitehall and dined alone with Mr. Chevins his sister; whither by and by came in Mr. Progers and Sir Tho. Allen, and by and by fine Mrs. Wells, who is a great beauty and there I had my full gaze upon her, to my great content, she being a woman of pretty conversation. Thence to the Duke of York, who, with the officers of the