

go with him to Chatham or no; I told him, if he commanded, but I did believe there would be business here for me; and so he told me, then it would be better to stay – which I suppose he will take better than if I had been forward to go. Thence, after staying and seeing the throng of people to attend the King to chapel; but Lord, what a company of sad idle people they are – I walked to St. James with Coll. Remes; where stayed a good while and then walked to Whitehall with Mr. Coventry, talking about business. So meeting Creed, took him with me home and to dinner, a good dinner; and thence by water to Woolwich, where mightily kindly received by Mrs. Falconer and her husband, who is now pretty well again – this being the first time I ever carried my wife thither. I walked to the Docke, where I met Mrs. Ackworth alone at home; and God forgive me, what thoughts I had; but I had not the courage to stay, but went to Mr. Pett's and walked up and down the yard with him and Deane, talking about the despatch of the ships now in haste; and by and by Creed and my wife and a friend of Mr. Falconers came with the boat and called me; and so by water to Deptford, where I landed; and after talking with others, walked to Halfway house with Mr. Wayth, talking about the business of his supplying us with Canvas, and he told me in discourse several instances of Sir W. Batten's cheats. So to Halfway house, whither my wife and them were gone before; and after drinking there, we walked and by water home, sending Creed and the other with the boat home. Then I wrote a letter to Mr. Coventry; and so a good supper of pease, the first I eat this year, and so to bed.

29. *Sunday. Whitsunday. Kings Birth and Restauration day.* Up; and having received a letter last night, desiring it from Mr. Coventry, I walked to St. James; and there he and I did long discourse together of the business of the office and the war with the Dutch and he seemed to argue mightily with the little reason that there is for all this. He doth, as to the effect of the war, tell me clearly that it is not any skill of the Dutch that can hinder our trade if we will, we having so many advantages over them, of Windes, good ports, and men. But it is our pride and the laziness of the merchant. He seems to think that there may be some Negotiacion which may hinder a war this year; but that he speaks doubtfully, as unwilling, I perceive, to be thought to discourse any such thing. The main thing he desired to speak with me about was to know whether I do understand my Lord Sandwiches intentions as to going to sea with this fleet; saying