

at Harwich; being the narration of Capt. Hayward of the *Dunkirke*; who gives a very serious account how upon Monday the two fleets [were] fighting all day till 7 at night, and then the whole fleet of Dutch did betake themselves to a very plain flight and never looked back again. That Sir Chr. Mings is wounded in the leg. That the Generall is well. That it is conceived reasonably that of all the Dutch fleet, which, with what recruits they had, came to 100 sail, there is not above 50 got home – and of them, few, if any, of their flags. And that little Capt. Bell in one of the fireships did at the end of the day fire a ship of 70 guns. We were all so overtaken with this good news that the Duke ran with it to the King, who was gone to chapel; and there all the Court was in a hubbub, being rejoiced over head and ears in this good news. Away go I by coach to the New Exchange and there did spread this good news a little, though I find it had broken out before. And so home to our own church, it being the common fast-day; and it was just before sermon, but Lord, how all the people in the church stared upon me to see me whisper to Sir Jo. Minnes and my Lady Pen. Anon I saw people stirring and whispering below, and by and by comes up the Sexton from my Lady Ford to tell me the news (which I had brought), being now sent into the church by Sir W. Batten – in writing, and handed from pew to pew. But that which pleased me as much as the news, was to have the fair Mrs. Middleton at our church, who indeed is a very beautiful lady. Here after sermon comes to our office 40 people almost, of all sorts and qualities, to hear the news; which I took great delight to tell them.

7. Up betimes, and to my office about business (Sir W. Coventry having sent me word that he is gone down to the fleet to see how matters stand, and to be back again speedily), and with the same expectation of congratulating ourselves with the victory that I had yesterday. But my Lord Brouncker and Sir T. Harvey, that came from Court, tell me quite contrary news, which astonishes me. That is to say, that we are beaten – lost many ships and good commanders – have not taken one ship of the enemy's, and so can only report ourselves a victory; nor is it certain that we were left maisters of the field. But above all, that the *Prince* run on shore upon the Galoper, and there stuck – was endeavoured to be fetched off by the Dutch but could not, and so they burned her – and Sir G. Ascue is taken prisoner and carried into Holland. This news doth much trouble me, and the thoughts of the ill consequences of it, and the