

them so much money, and their families must starve if we do not give them money or they procure upon their tickets from some people that will trust them. A great folly is observed by all people, in the King's giving leave to so many merchantmen to go abroad this winter, and some upon voyages where it is impossible they should be back again by the spring; and the rest will be doubtful, but yet we let them go. What the reason of state is, nobody can tell, but all condemn it. The Prince and Duke of Albemarle have got no great credit by this year's service, our losses, both of reputation and ships, having been greater then is thought have ever been suffered in all ages put together before. Great folly in both Houses of Parliament, several persons falling together by the eares; among others, in the House of Lords, the Duke of Buckingham and my Lord Ossory. Such is our case, that everybody fears an invasion the next year; and for my part, I do methinks foresee some great unhappiness coming upon us, and do provide for it by laying by something against a rainy day – dividing what I have and laying it in several places – but with all faithfulness to the King in all respects – my grief only being that the King doth not look after his business himself, and thereby will be undone, both himself and his nations – it being not yet, I believe, too late, if he would apply himself to it, to save all and conquer the Dutch; but while he and the Duke of York mind their pleasure as they do, and nothing else, we must be beaten. So late, with my mind in good condition of quiet after the settling all my accounts, and to bed.

NOVEMBER

2. Up betimes, and with Sir W. Batten to Woolwich, where first we went on board the *Ruby*, [a] French prize, the only ship of war we have taken from any of our enemies this year. It seems a very good ship, but with galleries quite round the Sterne to walk in, as a Balcone, which will be taken down. She had also about 40 good brass guns, but will make little amends to our loss in the *Prince*. Thence to the Ropeway and the other yards to do several businesses. He, and I also, did buy some apples and pork; by the same token, the Bucher commended it as the best in England for Cloath and Colour – and for his beef, says he, “Look how fat it is; the lean appears only here and there a speck, like Beauty spots.”