

patience and seasoned head to consult and advise for defence and to bear with the evils of a Siege. The like he says is said of my Lord Tiviott, who was the boldest adventurer of his person in the world, and from a mean man in few years was come to this greatness of command and repute only by the death of all his officers, he many times having the luck of being the only survivor of them all, by venturing upon services for the King of France that nobody else would. And yet no man upon a defence – he being all fury and no judgment in a fight. He tells me above all of the Duke of Yorke, that he is more himself, and more of judgment is at hand in him, in the middle of a desperate service then at other times – as appeared in the business of Dunkirke, wherein no man ever did braver things or was in hotter service in the close of that day, being surrounded with enemies; and then, contrary to the advice of all about him, his counsel carried himself and the rest through them safe – by advising that he might make his passage with but a dozen with him; “For,” says he, “the enemy cannot move after me so fast with a great body, and with a small one we shall be enough to deal with them.” And though he is a man naturally Martiall to the highest degree, yet a man that never in his life talks one word of himself or service of his own; but only that he saw such or such a thing, and lays it down for a maxime that a Hector can have no courage. He told me also, as a great instance of some men, that the Prince of Conde’s excellence is that there not being a more furious man in the world, danger in fight never disturbs him, more then just to make him Civill and to command in words of great obligation to his officers and men but without any the least disturbance in his judgment or spirit.

8. All day before dinner with Creed, talking of many things; among others, of my Lord’s going so often to Chelsy; and he, without my speaking much, doth tell me that his daughters do perceive all and do hate the place and the young woman there, Mrs. Betty Becke – for my Lord, who sent them thither only for a disguise for his going thither, will come under pretence to see them, and pack them out of doors to the park and stay behind with her. But now the young ladies are gone to their mother to Kensington. To dinner. And after dinner, till 10 at night in my study, writing of my old broken office-notes in shorthand all in one book, till my eyes did ake, ready to drop out. So home to supper and to bed.

10. Up, and by water to Whitehall and there to a Committee of