

understand him through if I can, the doctrine being very useful. When it grew too dark to read, I lay down and took a nap, it being a most excellent fine evening; and about one a-clock got home, and after having wrote to Sir W. Coventry an account of what I had done and seen (which is entered in my letter-book), I to bed.

11. Up, and more letters still from Sir W. Coventry about more fireships; and so W. Batten and I to the office, where Brouncker came to us; who is just now going to Chatham upon a desire of Commissioner Pett's, who is in a very fearful stink for fear of the Dutch, and desires help for God and King and kingdom's sake. So Brouncker goes down, and Sir J. Mennes also, from Gravesend. This morning Pett writes us word that Sherenesse is lost last night, after two or three hours' dispute – the enemy hath possessed himself of the place; which is very sad and puts us into great fears of Chatham. Sir W. Batten and I down by water to Deptford, and there Sir W. Penn and we did consider of several matters relating to the despatch of the Fireshipps; and so W. Batten and I home again – and there to dinner, my wife and father having dined. And after dinner, by W. Hewer's lucky advice, went to Mr. Fenn and did get him to pay me above 400*l* of my Wages, and W. Hewer received it for me and brought it home this night. Then home and there to our business, hiring some fireships and receiving every hour almost letters from Sir W. Coventry, calling for more Fireshipps – and an order from Council to enable us to take any man's ships; and Sir W. Coventry in his letter to us says he doth not doubt but at this time (under an Invasion, as he owns it to be) the King may by law take any man's goods. At this business late, and then home, where a great deal of serious talk with my wife about the sad state we are in, and especially from the beating-up of drums this night for the trainbands, upon pain of death to appear in arms tomorrow morning, with bullet and powder and money to supply themselves with victuals for a fortnight – which, considering the soldiers drawn out to Chatham and elsewhere, looks as if they had a design to ruin the City and give it up to be undone – which I hear makes the sober citizens to think very sadly of things. So to bed after supper, ill in my mind.

12. Up very betimes to our business at the office, there hiring of more fireships; and at it close all the morning. At noon home, and Sir W. Penn dined with us. By and by, after dinner, my wife out by