

begin. Thence home with him again, in our way he talking of his cures abroad while he was with the King as a Doctor; and above all men, the pox. And among others, Sir J. Denham he told me he had cured after it was come to an ulcer all over his face to a miracle. By coach home, calling by the way at Charing cross and there saw the great Dutchman that is come over, under whose arm I went with my hat on and could not reach higher then his eyebrows with the tip of my fingers, reaching as high as I could. He is a comely and well-made man, and his wife a very little but pretty comely Dutch woman. It is true he wears pretty high-heeled shoes, but not very high, and doth generally wear a Turbant, which makes him show yet taller then he really is, though he is very tall as I have said before. Home to my office, and then to supper, and then to my office again late, and so home to bed.

16. Wakened about 2 a-clock this morning with the noise of Thunder, which lasted for an hour; with such continued Lightnings, not flashes but flames, that all the sky and ayre was light; and that for a great while, not a minute's space between new flames all the time; such a thing as I never did see, nor could have believed had ever been in nature. And being put into a great sweat with it, could not sleep till all was over – and that accompanied with such a storm of rain as I never heard in my life. I expected to find my house in the morning overflowed with the rain breaking in, and that much hurt must needs have been done in the City with this lightening; but I find not one drop of rain in my house, nor any news of hurt done. But it seems it hath been here and all up and down the counties hereabouts, the like tempest – Sir W. Batten saying much of the greatness thereof at Epsum.

17. To my Lord Crews and there with him a good while; before dinner talked of the Dutch war and find that he doth much doubt that we shall fall into it without the money or consent of Parliament that is expected, or the reason for it that is fit to have for every war. So to Capt. Cookes but he was not at home; but I there spoke with my boy Tom Edwards and directed him to go to Mr. Townsend (with whom I was in the morning) to have measure taken of his clothes to be made him there out of the Wardrobe – which will be so done, and then I think he will come to me. Thence to Whitehall; and after long staying, there was no committee of the Fishery as was expected. Here I walked long with Mr. Pierce, who tells me the