

Exchequer as much money as is ready to break down the floor. This arises, I believe, from Sir G. Downing's late talk of the greatness of the sum lying there of people's money that they would not fetch away, which he showed me and a great many others. Most people that I speak with are in doubt how we shall do to secure our seamen from running over to the Dutch; which is a sad but very true consideration at this day. At noon am told that my Lord Duke of Albemarle is made Lord High Constable; the meaning whereof at this time I know not, nor whether it be true or no. Dined, and Mr. Hater and W. Hewer with me; where they do speak very sorrowfully of the posture of the times, and how people do cry out in the streets of their being bought and sold; and both they and everybody that come to me do tell me that people make nothing of talking treason in the streets openly: as, that we are bought and sold and governed by Papists and that we are betrayed by people about the King and shall be delivered up to the French, and I know not what. At dinner we discoursed of Tom-of-the-Wood, a fellow that lives like a Hermit near Woolwich, who as they say (and Mr. Bodham, they tell me, affirms that he was by at the Justice's when some did accuse him there for it) [did] foretell the burning of the City, now says that a greater desolation is at hand. Thence we read and laughed at Lillys prophecies this month – in his almanac this year. So to the office after dinner; and thither comes Mr. Pierce, who tells me his condition: how he cannot get his money (about 500l, which he says is a very great part of what he hath for his family and children) out of Viner's hand – and endeed, it is to be feared that this will wholly undo the banquiers. He says he knows nothing of the late affronts to my Lord Chancellors house as is said, nor hears of the Duke of Albemarle's being made High Constable; but says that they are in great distraction at Whitehall – and that everywhere people do speak high against Sir W. Coventry; but he agrees with me that he is the best Minister of State the King hath, and so from my heart I believe.

At night came home Sir W. Batten and Sir W. Penn, who only can tell me that they have placed guns at Woolwich and Deptford and sunk some ships below Woolwich and Blackwall, and are in hopes that they will stop the enemy's coming up. But strange our confusion; that among them that are sunk they have gone and sunk without consideration the *Franckin*, one of the King's ships, with stores to a very considerable value, that hath been long loaden for supply of the ships and the new ship at Bristol, and much wanted