

enemy before you are upon them. There they were all snapped, he and all his officers, and about 200 men as they say – there being left now in the garrison but four Captains. This happened the 3rd of May last, being not before the day twelvemonth of his entering into his government there; but at his going out in the morning, he said to some of his officers, “Gentlemen, let us look to ourselves, for it was this day three years that so many brave Englishmen were knocked on the head by the Moores, when Fines made his sally out.” Here till almost night; and then home with Sir J. Mennes by coach, and so to my office a while and home to supper and bed – being now in constant pain in my back; but whether it be only wind or what it is, the Lord knows; but I fear the worst.

3. Up, still in a constant pain in my back, which much afflicts me with fear of the consequence of it. All the morning at the office; we sat at the office extraordinary, upon the business of our stores; but Lord, what a pitiful account the Surveyor makes of it grieves my heart. This morning before I came out, I made a bargain with Capt. Taylor for a ship for the Commissioners for Tanger, wherein I hope to get 40 or 50*l*. To the Change and thence home and dined; and then by coach to Whitehall, sending my wife to Mr. Hunts. At the Committee for Tanger all the afternoon; where a sad consideration to see things of so great weight managed in so confused a manner as it is, so as I would not have the buying of an acre of land bought by – the Duke of Yorke and Mr. Coventry, for aught I see, being the only two that do anything like men. Prince Robert doth nothing but swear and laugh a little, with an oath or two, and that’s all he doth. Thence called my wife and home; and I late at my office and so home to supper and bed, pleased at my hopes of gains by today’s work, but very sad to think of the state of my health.

4. This noon Mr. Coventry discoursed largely and bravely to me concerning the different sort of valours, the active and passive valour. For the latter, he brought as an instance General Blacke, who in the defending of Taunton and Lime for the Parliament did through his stubborn sort of valour defend it the most *opiniastrement* that ever any man did anything – and yet never was the man that ever made any attaque by land or sea, but rather avoyded it on all, even fair occasions. On the other side, Prince Rupert the boldest attaquar in the world for personal courage; and yet in the defending of Bristoll, no man did ever anything worse, he wanting the