

homeward, leaving Creed at the Temple: and my belly now full with Plays, that I do intend to bind myself to see no more till Michaelmas. So with my wife to Mile end and there drank of Bides ale, and so home; most of our discourse about our keeping a coach the next year, which pleases my wife mightily; and if I continue as able as now, it will save us money. This day came a letter from the Duke of York to the Board, to invite us, which is as much as to fright us, into the lending the King money; which is a poor thing and most dishonourable – and shows in what a case we are at the end of the war to our neighbours. And the King doth now declare publicly to give 10 per cent to all lenders; which makes some think that the Dutch themselves will send over money and lend it upon our public faith, the Act of Parliament.¹ So home and to my office; wrote a little and then home to supper and to bed.

26. Up; and Greeting came and I reckoned with him for his teaching of my wife and me upon the Flagielette to this day, and so paid him off, having as much as he can teach us. Then to the office, where we sat upon a particular business all the morning, and my Lord Anglesey with us; who, and my Lord Brouncker, do bring us news how my Lord Chancellors seal is to be taken away from him today. The thing is so great and sudden to me, that it put me into a very great admiration what should be the meaning of it; and they do not own that they know what it should be. But this is certain: that the King did resolve it on Saturday, and did yesterday send the Duke of Albemarle (the only man fit for those works) to him for his purse; to which the Chancellor answered that he received it from the King, and would deliver it to the King's own hand, and so civilly returned the Duke of Albemarle without it; and this morning my Lord Chancellor is to be with the King, to come to an end in that business. And it is said that the King doth say that he will have the Parliament meet, and that it will prevent much trouble by having of him out of their envy, by his place being taken away – for that all their envy will be at him. It is said also that my Lord Chancellor answers that he desires he may be brought to his trial if he have done anything to lose his office; and that he will be willing, and is most desirous, to lose that and his head both together. Upon what terms they parted nobody knows; but the Chancellor looked sad, he says.

i. The Eleven Months Tax.