

suspecting every man that proposes anything to him to be a knave, or at least to have some ends of his own in it. Another rule is a proverb that he that cannot say no (that is, that is of so good a nature that he hath, cannot deny anything or cross another in doing anything) is not fit for business. The last of which is a very great fault of mine, which I must amend in. Thence by boat. And it being rough, he told me the passage of a Frenchman through London bridge; where when he saw the great fall, he begun to cross himself and say his prayers in the greatest fear in the world; and as soon as he was over, he swore "*Morbleu c'est le plus grand plaisir du mond*" – being the most like a French humour in the world. To Deptford and there surprized the yard and called them to a muster, and discovered many abuses, which we shall be able to understand hereafter and amend. Thence walked to Redriffe and so to London bridge, where I parted with him. And walked home. And did a little business, and to supper and to bed.

13. Up earely and to my office – where people came to me about business, and by and by we met on purpose to inquire into the business of the Flaggmakers, where I am the person that doth chiefly manage the business against them on the King's part; and I do find it the greatest cheat that I have yet found – they having 8d. per yard allowed them by pretence of a contract, when no such thing appears; and it is 3d. more then was formerly paid and then I now offer the Board to have them done.

14. Up early and to look over my works, and find my house to go on apace. So to my office to prepare business; and then we met and sat till noon. And then Comissioner Pett and I being invited, went by Sir John Winter's coach, sent for us, to the Miter in Fanchurch street – to a venison-pasty; where I find him a very worthy man and good discourse – most of which was concerning the Forrest of Deane and the timber there and Iron workes, with their great antiquity and the vast heaps of cinders which they find, and are now of great value, being necessary for the making of Iron at this day and without which they cannot work. Thence to my office about business till late, and so home and to bed.

17. *Lords day.* Up very earely, this being the last Sunday that the Presbyterians are to preach, unless they read the new Comon