

advance. By this means, the Company will not suffer by the King's goods bringing down the price of their own.

25. Up, and to my Lord Sandwiches, where several commanders of whom I took the state of all their ships, and of all could find not above four capable of going out – the truth is, the want of victuals being the whole overthrow of this year, both at sea and now at the Noure here and Portsmouth, where all the fleet lies. By and by comes down my Lord, and then he and I an hour together alone upon private discourse. He tells me that Mr. Coventry and he are not reconcilable, but declared enemies. He tells me, as very private, that there are great factions at the Court between the King's party and the Duke of Yorkes, and that the King (which is a strange difficulty) doth favour my Lord in opposition to the Duke's party. That Prince Rupert and he are all possible friends in the world. That Coventry hath aggravated this business of the prizes, though never so great plundering in the world as while the Duke and he were at sea. And in Sir Jo. Lawsons time he could take and pillage and then sink a whole ship in the Streights, and Coventry say nothing to it. That my Lord Arlington is his fast friend. That my Lord Chancellor doth begin to be cold to him, because of his seeing him and Arlington so great. That nothing at Court is minded but faction and pleasure, and nothing intended of general good to the Kingdom by anybody heartily, so that he believes, with me, in a little time confusion will certainly come over all the nation. He told me how a design was carried on a while ago for the Duke of Yorke to raise an army in the North, and to be General of it, and all this without the knowledge or advice of the Duke of Albemarle; which when he came to know, he was so vexed, they were fain to let it fall to content him. That his maching with the family of Sir G. Carteret doth make the difference greater between Coventry and him, they being enemies. After dinner my Lord by a Ketch down to Erith, where the *Bezan* was – it blowing these last two days, and now both night and day very hard Southwardly – so that it hath certainly drove the Duch off the coast.

26. Up, and to the office; and thither comes Sir Jer. Smith and Sir Chr. Mings to see me, being just come from Portsmouth and going down to the fleet. Here I sat and talked with them a good while, and then parted, only Sir Chr. Mings and I together by water to the Tower. And I find him a very witty well-spoken fellow, and