

Hampton Court. After discourse with Mr. Sheply, we parted and I into Thames street beyond the bridge and there enquired among the shops the price of tarr and oyle; and do find great content in it and hope to save the King money by this practice. So home to dinner and then to the Change; and so home again and at the office, preparing business against tomorrow all the afternoon. At night walked with my wife upon the leads; and so to supper and to bed. My [wife] having lately a great paine in her eare, for which this night she begins to take phisique; and I have got cold and so have a great deal of my old pain.

26. Up and took phisique, but such as to go abroad with, only to loosen me, for I am bound. So to the office – and there all the morning, setting till noon; and then took Comissioner Pett home with me to dinner, where my stomach was turned when my sturgeon came to table, upon which I saw very many little worms creeping, which I suppose was through the staleness of the pickle. He being gone, comes Mr. Nicholson, my old fellow-student at Magdalen, and we played three or four things upon violin and Basse; and so parted, and I to my office till night; and then came Mr. Sheply and Creede in order to setting some accounts of my Lord right; and so to bed.

27. Up earely, not quite rid of my pain. I took more phisique, and so made myself ready to go forth. So to my Lord, who ris as soon as he heard I was there and in his nightgown and shirt stood talking with me alone two houres, I believe – concerning his greatest matters of state and interest. Among other things that the Duke at Portsmouth did thank my Lord for all his pains and care; and that he perceived it must be the old Captains¹ that must do the business, and that the new ones would spoil all. And that my Lord did very discreetly tell the Duke (though quite against his judgment and inclinacion) that, however, the King's new Captaines ought to be borne with a little and encouraged. By which he will oblige that party and prevent, as much as may be, their envy; but he says that certainly things will go to wrack if ever the old Captains should be wholly out, and the new ones only command. Mr. Holliard hath been with my wife today and cured her of her pain in her eare, by taking out a most prodigious quantity of hard wax that had

1. Those commissioned in the Commonwealth navy.