

she used to make coal fires and wash my foul clothes with her own hand for me, poor wretch, in our little room at my Lord Sandwiches; for which I ought for ever to love and admire her, and do, and persuade myself she would do the same thing again if God should reduce us to it. So up, and by coach abroad to the Duke of Albemarle's about sending soldiers down to some ships; and so home, calling at a belt-makers to mend my belt, and so home and to dinner, where pleasant with my wife; and then to the office, where mighty busy all the day, saving going forth to the Change to pay for some things and on other occasions; and at my goldsmith's did observe the King's new Medall, where in little there is Mrs. Stewards face, as well done as ever I saw anything in my whole life I think – and a pretty thing it is that he should choose her face to represent Britannia by. So at the office late very busy, and much business with great joy despatched; and so home to supper and to bed.

27. Up by candlelight about 6 a-clock, it being bitter cold weather again after all our warm weather, and by water down to Woolwich ropeyard (I being this day at a leisure, the King and Duke of York being gone down to Sherenesse this morning to lay out the design for a fortification there to the River Medway, and so we do not attend the Duke of York as we should otherwise have done); and then to the Dockyard to enquire of the state of things; and went into Mr. Pett's and there, beyond expectation, he did present me with a Japan cane with a silver head, and his wife sent me by him a ring with a Woolwich stone, now much in request; which I accepted, the value not being great and knowing that I had done them courtesies, which he did own in very high terms; and then, at my asking, did give me an old draft of an ancient-built ship, given him by his father, of the *Beare* in Queen Elizabeths time. This did much please me, it being a thing I much desired to have, to show the difference in the built of ships now and heretofore. Being much taken with this kindness – away to Blackwall and Deptford to satisfy myself there about the King's business; and then walked to Redriffe and so home about noon; there find Mr. Hunt, newly come out of the country, who tells me the country is much impoverished by the greatness of taxes. The Farmers do break every day almost, and 1000*l* a year became not worth 500*l*. He dined with us, and we had good discourse of the generall ill state of things; and by the way he told me some ridiculous pieces of thrift of Sir G. Downing's, who is