

wife should go; and she having dressed herself on purpose, was very angry and begin to talk openly of my keeping her within doors before Creed; which vexed me to the guts, but I had the discretion to keep myself without passion; and so resolved at last not to go, but to go down by water. Which we did, by H. Russell, to the Halfway house and there eat and drank; and upon a very small occasion had a difference again broke out, where without any the least cause she had the cunning to cry a great while and talk and blubber; which made me mighty angry in mind but said nothing to provoke her, because Creed was there. But walked home, being troubled in my mind also about the knavery and neglect of Capt. Fudge and Taylor, who were to have had their ship for Tanger ready by Thursday last, and now the men by a mistake are come on board, and not any Maister or man or boy of the ship's company on board with them when we came by her side this afternoon. And also, I received a letter from Mr. Coventry this day in complaint of it.

13. So up at 5 a-clock, and with Capt. Taylor on board her at Deptford and found all out of order, only the soldiers civil and Sir Arth. Bassett a civil person. I rated at Capt. Taylor, whom contrary to my expectation I found a lying and a very stupid blundering fellow, good for nothing; and yet we talk of him in the Navy as if he had been a excellent officer, but I find him a lying knave – and of no judgment or despatch at all. After finding the condition of the ship, no master, not above four men, and many ships provisions, sails and other things wanting, I went back and called upon Fudge; whom I found, like a lying rogue, unready to go on board; but I did so hare him that I made him get everything ready and left Taylor and H. Russell to quicken him; and so away and I by water on to Whitehall, where I met his Royal Highness at a Tanger Committee about this very thing and did there satisfy him how things are; at which all was pacified without any trouble – and I hope may end well yet; but I confess I am at a vile trouble for fear the rogue should not do his work and I come to shame and loss of the money I did hope justly to have got by it. Thence walked with Mr. Coventry to St. James's. After dinner, we did talk of a History of the Navy of England, how fit it were to be writ; and he did say that it hath been in his mind to propose to me the writing of the history of the late Dutch warr¹ – which I am glad to hear, it being a thing I much

1. Of 1652-4.