

the laying out so much money upon Sheerenesse, unless it be to the slighting of Chatham yard, for it is much a better place then Chatham; which, however, the King is not at present in purse to do, though it were to be wished he were. Thence in Comissioner Pett's coach (leaving them there), I late in the dark to Gravesend, where great is the plague, and I troubled to stay there so long for the tide. At 10 at night, having supped, I took boat alone, and slept well all the way to the Tower docke, about 3 a-clock in the morning. So knocked up my people and to bed.

19. Slept till 8 a-clock; and then up, and met with letters from the King and Lord Arlington for the removal of our office to Greenwich. I also wrote letters and made myself ready to go to Sir G. Carteret at Windsor; and having borrowed a horse of Mr. Blackbrough, did send him to wait for me at the Duke of Albemarle's door – when on a sudden, a letter comes to us from the Duke of Albemarle, to tell us that the fleet is all come back to Solebay and are presently to be despatched back again. Whereupon I presently by water to the Duke of Albemarle to know what news – and there I saw a letter from my Lord Sandwich to the Duke of Albemarle, and also from Sir W. Coventry and Capt. Teddiman, how my Lord, having commanded Teddiman with 22 ships (of which but 15 could get thither, and of those 15 but eight or nine could come up to play) to go to Bergen,¹ where after several messages to and fro from the Governor of the Castle, urging that Teddiman ought not to come thither with more then five ships, and desiring time to think of it, all the while he suffering the Dutch ships to land their guns to their best advantage – Teddiman, on the second present, begun to play at the Dutch ships (whereof ten East Indiamen) and in three hours' time (the town and Castle without any provocation playing on our ships) they did cut all our cables, so as the wind being off the land, did force us to go out – and rendered our fireships useless – without doing anything but what hurt, of course, our guns must have done them. We having lost five commanders – besides Mr. Edwd. Mountagu and Mr. Windham. Our fleet is come home, to our great grief with not above five weeks dry and six days wet provision. However, must out again;

1. In Norway, which was then under the rule of Denmark. Sandwich had been led to believe that the governor had agreed to connive with him in this attack on the Dutch E. India fleet which had taken refuge in the harbour.