

business; and so home to supper and to bed. Somebody told me this day that they hear that Thompson with the wooden leg, and Wildman the Fifth-Monarchy man (a great creature of the Duke of Buckingham) are in nomination to be commissioners,¹ among other, upon the Bill of Accounts.

19. Up, and to the office, where Comissioner Middleton first took place at the Board as Surveyor of the Navy; and ended I think will be an excellent officer I am sure, much beyond what his predecessor was. At noon, to avoid being forced to invite him to dinner, it being his first day and nobody inviting him, I did go to the Change with Sir W. Penn in his coach, who first went to Guildhall, whither I went with him – he to speak with Sheriffe Gawden, I only for company; and did here look up and down this place, where I have not been before since the fire, and I saw the City are going apace on in the rebuilding of Guildhall. Thence to the Change, where I stayed very little; and so away home to dinner and there find my wife mightily out of order with her teeth. At the office all the afternoon, and at night by coach to Westminster to the Hall, where I met nobody walking, and do find that this evening the King by Message (which he never did before) hath passed several bills; among others, that for the accounts and for banishing my Lord Chancellor, and hath adjourned the House to February; at which I am glad, hoping in this time to get leisure to state my Tanger accounts and to prepare better for the Parliament's enquiries.

21. At the office all the morning, and at noon home to dinner with my clerks and Creed; who among other things, all alone after dinner, talking of the times, he tells me that the Nonconformists are mighty high and their meetings frequented and connived at; and they do expect to have their day now soon, for my Lord of Buckingham is a declared friend to them, and even to the Quakers, who had very good words the other day from the King himself; and which is more, the Archbishop of Canterbury is called no more to the Caball (nor, by the way, Sir W. Coventry; which I am sorry for, the Caball at present being, as he says, the King and Duke of Buckingham and Lord Keeper, Albemarle and Privy Seale), the Bishops differing from the King in the late business in the House of

1. The Brooke House committee which now conducted a severe enquiry and reported in October 1669.