

he was a stranger by his two names, both strange. And offered that he and one more, who hath done the next best, should have not only their own, but part of the others' salary; but that, I having said he was my brother-in-law, did stop; but they two are ordered their pay, which I am glad of, and some of the rest will lose their pay and others be laid by the heels. I was very glad of this being ended so well. Then with the Duke of York to the King to receive his commands for stopping the sale this day of some prize goods at the Prize Office, goods fit for the Navy, and received the King's commands and carried them to the Lords' House to my Lord Ashly, who was angry much thereat; and I am sorry it fell to me to carry that order, but I cannot help it; so against his will, he signed a note I writ to the Commissioners of Prizes, which I carried and delivered to Kingdom at their new office in Aldergate Streete. Thence a little to the Exchange, where it was hot that the Prince was dead, but I did rectify it. So home to dinner and found Balty, told him the good news, and then after dinner away; I presently to Whitehall and did give the Duke of York a memorial of the salt business against the Council. And did wait all the Council for answer – walking a good while with Sir St. Fox; who, among other things, told me his whole mystery in the business of the interest he pays as Treasurer for the Army. They give him 12*d.* per cent quite through the Army, with condition to be paid weekly. This he undertakes upon his own private credit, and to be paid by the King at the end of every four months. If the King pay him not at the end of the four months, then for all the time he stays longer, my Lord Treasurer by agreement allows him 8 per cent per annum for the forebearance – so that in fine, he hath about twelve per cent from the King and the Army for fifteen or sixteen months' interest – out of which he gains soundly, his expense being about 130000*l* per annum – and hath no trouble in it compared (as I told him) to the trouble I must have to bring in an account of interest. I was, however, glad of being thus enlightened. And so away to the council door, and there got in and hear a piece of a cause heard before the King, about a ship deserted by her fellows (who were bound mutually to defend each other) in their way to Virginy and taken by the enemy – but it was but meanly pleaded.

This day I observe still in many places the smoking remains of the late fire. The ways mighty bad and dirty. This night Sir R. Ford told me how this day at Christ Church Hospital they have given a living of 200*l* per annum to Mr. Sanchy, my old acquaintance;