

the garden together a while, it being night; and then Mercer and I a song or two, and then in (the Michells home), my wife, Mercer and I, to supper; and then parted and to bed.

27. Wakened this morning about 3 a-clock by Mr. Griffin, with a letter from Sir W. Coventry to W. Penn (which W. Penn sent me to see) that the Dutch are come up to the Nore again, and he knows not whether further or no – and would have, therefore, several things done: ships sunk, and I know not what; which Sir W. Penn (who it seems is very ill this night, or would be thought so) hath directed Griffin to carry to the Trinity house; so he went away with the letter, and I tried and with much ado did get a little sleep more; and so up about 6 a-clock, full of thought what to do with the little money I have left, and my plate, wishing with all my heart that that was all secured. So to the office, where much business all the morning, and the more by my Brethren being all out of the way; Sir W. Penn this night taken so ill, cannot stir – W. Batten ill at Walthamstow – Sir J. Mennes the like at Chatham; and my Lord Brouncker there also upon business – horrible trouble with the backwardness of the merchants to let us have their ships, and seamen's running away and not to be got or kept without money. It is worth turning to our letters this day to Sir W. Coventry about these matters. At noon to dinner, having a haunch of venison boiled, and all my clerks at dinner with me; and mightily taken with Mr. Gibson's discourse of the faults of this war in its management compared [with] that in the last war, which I will get him to put into writing. Thence after dinner to the office again, and there I saw the proclamations come out this day, for the Parliament to meet the 25th of next month; for which God be praised – and another to invite seamen to bring in their complaints of their being ill-used in the getting their tickets and money – there being a committee of the Council appointed to receive their complaints. Pierce tells me that all the town doth cry out of our office for a pack of fools and knaves, but says that everybody speaks either well, or at least the best, of me, which is my great comfort and I do think I do deserve it and shall show I have; but yet do think, and he also, that the Parliament will send us all going; and I shall be well contented with it, God knows. News this tide, that about 80 sail of Dutch, great and small, were seen coming up the River this morning; and this tide, some of them to the upper end of the Hope.