

11. At the office all the morning, Sir W. Batten, Sir W. Penn and I, about the Victuallers accounts. Then home to dinner, and to the office again all the afternoon, Mr. Hater and I writing over my Alphabet faire, in which I took great pleasure to rule the lines and to have the Capitall words writ with red inke.

12. This morning I tried on my riding-cloth suit with close knees, the first that ever I made, and I think they will be very convenient – if not too hot to wear any other open-knees after them. At the office all the morning – where we have a full Board, *viz.*, Sir G. Carteret, Sir John Mennes, Sir W. Batten, Mr. Coventry, Sir W. Pen, Mr. Pett and myself. Among many other businesses, I did get a vote signed by all concerning my issuing of warrants, which they did not smell the use I intend to make of it; but it is to plead for my clerks to have their right of giving out all warrants, in which I am not a little pleased. But a great difference happened between Sir G. Carteret and Mr. Coventry about passing the victuallers account, and whether Sir George is to pay the Victualler his money, or the Exchequer; Sir George claiming it to be his place to save his threepences.<sup>1</sup> It ended in anger, and I believe will come to be a Question before the King and Council. I did what I could to keep myself unconcerned in it, having some things of my own to do before I would appear high in anything.

13. Up by 4 a-clock in the morning and read Cicero's *Second Oracion against Cataline*, which pleased me exceedingly; and more I discern therein then ever I thought was to be found in him. But I perceive it was my ignorance, and that he is as good a writer as ever I read in my life. By and by to Sir G. Carterets to talk with him about yesterday's difference at the office; and offered my service to look into any old books or papers that I have that may make for him. He was well pleased therewith – and did much inveigh against Mr. Coventry. Upon the whole, I do find that he doth much esteem of me and is my friend. And I may make good use of him. Thence to several places about businesses; among others, to my Brother and there Tom Beneere the barber trimmed me. Thence to my Lady's and there dined with her – Mr. Loxton, Gibbons, and Goodgroone with us, and after dinner some Musique, and so home to my business; and in the evening, my wife and I and Sarah and the boy, a

1. His 'poundage' (commission) of 3*d.* in the pound.