

that makes the Duke and Mr. Coventry stand by their choice. I to Change and there stayed long, doing business. And this day for certain, news is come that Teddiman hath brought in 18 or 20 Duchmen, merchants, their Burdeaux fleet, and two men of war to Portsmouth. And I had letters this afternoon that three are brought into the Downes and Dover – so that the war is begun: God give a good end to it. After dinner at home all the afternoon, busy; and at night with Sir W. Batten and Sir J. Mennes looking over the business of stating the accounts of the Navy charge to my Lord Treasurer, where Sir J. Mennes's paper served us in no stead almost, but was all false; and after I had done it with great pains, he being by, I am confident he understands not one word in it. At it till 10 at night almost. Thence by coach to Sir Ph. Warwickes by his desire, to have conferred with him; but he being in bed, I to Whitehall to the Secretary's and there wrote to Mr. Coventry; and so home by coach again. A fine clear moonshine night, but very cold. Home to my office a while, it being past 12 at night; and so to supper and to bed.

22. At the office all the morning. Sir G. Carteret, upon a motion of Sir W. Batten's, did promise, if we would write a letter to him, to show it to the King on our behalf, touching our desire of being Commissioners of the Prize office. I wrote a letter to my mind; and after eating a bit at home (Mr. Sheply dining and taking his leave of me), abroad and to Sir G. Carteret with the letter; and thence to my Lord Treasurer's, where with Sir Ph. Warwicke long studying all we could to make the last year swell as high as we could. And it is much to see how he doth study for the King to do it, to get all the money from the Parliament, all he can – and I shall be serviceable to him therein, to help him to heads upon which to enlarge the report of the expense. He did observe to me how obedient this Parliament was for a while; and the last sitting, how they begun to differ and to carp at the King's officers; and what they will do now, he says, is to make agreement for the money, for there is no guess to be made of it. He told me he was prepared to convince the parliament that the Subsidys are a most ridiculous tax (the four last not rising to 40000l)<sup>1</sup> and unæquall. He talks of a tax of assessement of 70000l for five years, the people to be secured that it shall continue no longer then there is really a warr – and the charges thereof to be

1. sc. £40,000 each.