

last we got a fisherboy by chance and took him into the boat; and being an odd kind of boy, did vex us too, for he would not answer us aloud when we spoke to him; but did carry us safe thither, though with a mistake or two, but I wonder they were not more. In our way I was [surprised], and so we were all, at the strange nature of the Sea water in a dark night; that it seemed like fire upon every stroke of the Oare – and they say is a sign of Winde. We went to the Crowne Inne at Rochester, and there to supper and made ourselves merry with our poor fisherboy, who told us he had not been in a bed in the whole seven year since he came to prentice, and hath two or three year more to serve. After eating something, we in our clothes to bed.

26. Up by 5 a-clock and got post-horses and so set out for Greenwich, calling and drinking at Dartford. Being come to Greenwich, and shifting myself, I to the office; from whence by and by my Lord Bruncker and Sir Jo. Minnes set out toward Erith to take charge of the two East India Shippes which I had a hand in contriving for the King's service, and may do myself a good office too thereby. I to dinner with Mr. Waight to his father-in-law's in Greenwich – one of the most silly, harmless, prating old men that ever I heard in my life. Thence to the office; and after some letters, down to Woolwich, where I have not lain with my wife these eight days I think, or more.¹ After supper, and telling her my mind about my trouble in what I have done as to buying of these goods – we to bed.

27. Up, and saw and admired my wife's picture of Our Saviour, now finished, which is very pretty. So by water to Greenwich to Mr. Evelins, where much company, and thence in his coach with him to the Duke of Albemarle by Lambeth, who was in a mighty pleasant humour. There the Duke tells us that the Dutch do stay abroad, and our fleet must go out again, or to be ready to do so. Here we got several things ordered as we desired, for the relief of the prisoners and sick and wounded men. Here I saw this week's Bill of Mortality, wherein, blessed be God, there is above 1800 decrease, being the first considerable decrease we have had. Back again the same way, and had most excellent discourse of Mr. Eveling touching all manner of learning; wherein I find him a very

1. For his movements, see above, p. 503, n.