

to Mr. Reeves to see a Microscope, he having been with me today morning, and there chose one which I will have. Thence back and took up young Mrs. Harman, a pretty-bred and pretty-humored woman, whom I could love well, though not handsome, yet for her person and carriage and black eye. By the way met her husband going for her, and set them both down at home; and so home to my office a while, and so to supper and bed.

27. Up; and after some discourse with Mr. Duke, who is to be Secretary to the Fishery and is now Secretary to the Committee for Trade, who I find a very ingenious man, I went to Mr. Povys and there heard a little of his empty discourse; and fain he would have Mr. Gauden been the victualler for Tanger, which none but a fool would say to me, when he knows he hath made it his request to me to get him something of these men that now do it. Thence to St. James's; but Mr. Coventry being ill and in bed, I did not stay, but to Whitehall a little, walked up and down, and so home to fit papers against the afternoon. And after dinner to the Change a little and then to Whitehall, where anon the Duke of Yorke came and a Committee we had of Tanger; where I read over my rough draft of the contract for Tanger Victualling and acquainted them with the death of Mr. Alsopp, which Mr. Lanyon had told me this morning – which is a sad consideration, to see how uncertain a thing our lives are and how little to be presumed of in our greatest undertakings. The words of the contract approved of, and I home; and there came Mr. Lanyon to me and brought my neighbour Mr. Andrews to me, whom he proposes for his partener in the room of Mr. Alsopp; and I like well enough of it. We read over the contract together and discoursed it well over, and so parted; and I am glad to see it once over in this condition again, for Mr. Lanyon and I had some discourse today about my share in it; and I hope, if it goes on, to have my first hopes of 300*l* per annum. They gone, I to supper and to bed. This afternoon came my great store of Coles in, being ten Chaldron, so that I may see how long they will last me.

28. At the office all the morning. Dined, after Change, at home, and then abroad and seeing *The Bondman* upon the posts, I consulted my oaths and find I may go safely this time without breaking it; I went thither, notwithstanding my great desire to have gone to Fleete ally, God forgive me, again. There I saw it acted; it is true, for want of practice they had many of them forgot their parts a