

blown up, and three on fire. That they begun to fight on Friday. And at his coming into port, could make another ship of the King's coming in, which he judged to be the *Rupert*. That he knows of no other hurt to our ships. With this good news, I home by water again, and to church in the sermon time and with great joy told it my fellows in the pew. So home after church-time to dinner. And after dinner my father, wife, sister, and Mercer by water to Woolwich, while I walked by land and saw the Exchange as full of people, and hath been all this noon, as of any other day, only for news. A letter is also come this afternoon from Harman in the *Henery* (which is she was taken by Elliott for the *Rupert*), that being fallen into the body of the Dutch fleet, he made his way through them, was set on by three fireships, one after another – got two of them off and disabled the third – was set on fire himself; upon which many of his men leaped into the sea and perished; among others, the Parson first – hath lost above 100 men and a good many wounded (God knows what is become of Balty); and at last quenched his own fire and got to Albrough – being, as all say, the greatest hazard that ever any ship scaped, and as bravely managed by him. The mast of the third fireship fell into their ship on Fire and hurt Harman's leg, which makes him lame now, but not dangerous. I to Sir G. Carteret, who told me there hath been great bad management in all this; that the King's orders that went on Friday for calling back the Prince, was sent but by the ordinary post on Wednesday, and came to the Prince his hands but on Friday. And then instead of sailing presently, he stays till 4 in the evening; and that which is worst of all – the *Hampshire*, laden with merchants money come from the Streights, set out with or but just before the fleet and was in the Downes by 5 of the clock yesterday morning – and the Prince with his fleet came over to Dover but at 10 of the clock at night. This is hard to [be] answered, if it be true. This puts great astonishment into the King and Duke and Court, everybody being out of countenance. So meeting Creed, he and I by coach to Hide parke alone to talk of these things, and do bless God that my Lord Sandwich was not here at this time – to be concerned in a business like to be so misfortunate. It was a pleasant thing to consider how fearful I was of being seen with Creed all this afternoon, for fear of people's thinking that by our relation to my Lord Sandwich we should be making ill constructions of the Prince's failure. But God knows, I am heartily sorry, for the sake of the whole nation; though if it were not for that, it would not be amisse to have these high