

the Cathedrall, and thence to the Crowne, whither Mr. Fowler, the Mayor of the towne, was come in his gowne, and is a very Reverend Magistrate. After I had eat a bit, not staying to eat with them, I went away; and so took horses and to Gravesend, and there stayed not, but got a boat (the sickness being very much in the Towne still) and so called on board my Lord Bruncker and Sir Jo. Minnes, on board one of the East Indiamen at Erith, and there do find them full of envious complaints for the pillageing of the ships. But I did pacify them and discoursed about making money of some of the goods, and do hope to be the better by it honestly. So took leave (Madam Williams being here also with my Lord) and about 8 a-clock got to Woolwich; and there supped and mighty pleasant with my wife, who is, for aught I see, all friends with her maids; and so in great joy and content to bed.

5. Lay long in bed, talking; among other things, talking of my sister Pall, and my wife of herself is very willing that I should give her 400*l* to her portion – and would have her married as soon as we could; but this great sickness time doth make it unfit to send for her up. I abroad to the office, and thence to the Duke of Albemarle, all my way reading a book of Mr. Evelins translating, and sending me as a present, about directions of gathering a Library, but the book is above my reach, but his epistle to my Lord Chancellor is a very fine piece. When I came to the Duke, it was about the victuallers business, to put it into other hands, or more hands – which I do advise in, but I hope to do myself a jobb of work in it. So I walked through Westminster to my old house, the Swan, and there did pass some time with Sarah; and so down by water to Deptford and there to my Valentine's; round about and next door on every side is the plague, but I did not value it but there did what I would con ella; and so away to Mr. Evelings to discourse of our confounded business of prisoners and sick and wounded seamen, wherein he and we are so much put out of order. And here he showed me his gardens, which are, for variety of Evergreens and hedge of Holly, the finest things I ever saw in my life. Thence in his coach to Greenwich, and there to my office, all the way having fine discourse of Trees and the nature of vegetables. And so to write letters I very late, to Sir W. Coventry, of great concernment; and so to my last night's lodging,¹ but my wife is gone home to Woolwich. The Bill, blessed be