

steal their father's plate and clothes, and at last to be of their company, and they had their places to take up what goods were flung into the streets out of the windows when the houses were on fire; and this is like to be proved to a great number of rogues, whereof five are already found, and some found guilty this day. Then by water to Whitehall (calling at Michells in my way, but the rogue would not invite me in, I having a mind *para ver* his wife); and there to the Council chamber to deliver a letter to their Lordships about the state of the six merchantmen which we have been so long fitting out. When I came, the King and the whole tableful of Lords were hearing of a pitiful cause of a complaint of an old man, with a great gray beard, against his son, for not allowing himself something to live on; and at last came to the ordering the son to allow his father 10*l* a year. This cause lasted them near two hours; which methinks, at this time to be the work of the Council board of England, is a scandalous thing, and methought Sir W. Coventry to me did own as much. Here I find all the news is the enemy's landing 3000 men near Harwich, and attacking Langnerfort and being beat off thence with our great guns, killing some of their men and they leaving their lathers behind them; but we had no Horse in the way on Suffolke side, otherwise we might have galled their Foot. The Duke of York is gone down thither this day, while the Generall sat sleeping this afternoon at the Council table. The news so much talked of this Exchange, of a peace, I find by Sir Rd. Browne arises from a letter the Swedes agent hath received from Bredah, and showed at Court today, that they are come very near it, but I do not find anybody here relying on it. This cause being over, the Trinity house men, whom I did not expect to meet, were called in; and there Sir W. Pen made a formal speech in answer to a Question of the King's, whether the lying of the sunk ships in the River would spoil the River; but Lord, how gingerly he answered it, and with a deal of do, that he did not know whether it would be safe as to the enemy to have them taken up, but that doubtless it would be better for the River to have them taken up. Methought the Council found them answer like fools, and it ended in bidding them think more of it and bring their answer in writing.

Thence I to Westminster hall and there hear how they talk against the present management of things, and against Sir W. Coventry for his bringing in of new commanders and casting out the old seamen; which I did endeavour to rectify Mr. Michell and them in, letting them know that he hath opposed it all his life, the most of any man