

God, is less this week by 740 of what it was the last week. Being come to my lodging, I got something to eat, having eat little all the day, and so to bed – having this night renewed my promises of observing my vowes as I used to do, for I find that since I left them off, my minde is run a'wool-gathering and neglected my business.

7. Up, and to the office along with Mr. Childe, whom I sent for to discourse about the victualling business; who will not come into partenership (no more will Capt. Beckford) but I do find him a mighty understanding man, and one I will keep a knowledge of. Did business, though not much, at the office, because of the horrible Crowd and lamentable moan of the poor seamen that lie starving in the streets for lack of money – which doth trouble and perplex me to the heart. And more at noon, when we were to go through them; for then a whole hundred of them fallowed us – some cursing, some swearing, and some praying to us. And that that made me more troubled, was a letter come this noon from the Duke of Albemarle, signifying the Duch to be in sight, with 80 sail, yesterday morning off of Soldbay, coming right into the bay; God knows what they will and may do to us, we having no force abroad able to oppose them, but to be sacrificized to them. Here came Sir Wm. Rider to me, whom I sent for about the victualling business also; but he neither will not come into partenership, but desires to be of the Commission, if there be one. Thence back the back way to my office, where very late, very busy – but most of all when at night comes two waggons from Rochester with more goods from Capt. Cocke; and in housing them at Mr. Tookers lodgings, comes two of the Custome house to seize them, and did seize them, but I showed them my Transire. However, after some heat and angry words, we locked them up, and sealed up the key and did give it to the constable to keep till Monday – and so parted. But Lord, to think how the poor constable came to me in the dark, going home: "Sir," says he, "I have the Key, and if you would have me do any service for you, send for me betimes tomorrow morning and I will do what you would have me." Whether the fellow doth this out of kindness or knavery, I cannot tell, but it is pretty to observe. Talking with him in the highway, comes close by the bearers with a dead corps of the plague; but Lord, to see what custom is, that I am come almost to think nothing of it. So to my lodging, and there with Mr. Hater and Will ending a busines of the