

wife being gone by coach to Barnitt with W. Hewer and Mercer to meet them, and they did come Ware way.

31. Waked very betimes in the morning by extraordinary Thunder and rain, which did keep me sleeping and waking till very late; and it being a holiday, and my eye very sore, and myself having had very little sleep for a good while till 9 a-clock – and so up, and so saw all my family up, and my father and sister (who is a pretty good-bodied woman and not over-thicke, as I thought she would have been; but full of Freckles and not handsome in face); and so I out by water among the ships, and to Deptford and Blackewall about business; and so home and to dinner with my father and sister and family, mighty pleasant all of us – and among other things, with a Sparrow that our Mercer hath brought up now for three weeks, which is so tame, that [it] flies up and down and upon the table and eats and pecks, and doth everything so pleasantly, that we are mightily pleased with it. To my accounts and settled them clear; but to my grief, find myself poorer then I was the last by near 20l – by reason of my being forced to return 50l to Downing the smith which he had presented me with. However, I am well contented, finding myself yet to be worth 5200l.

Thus ends this month, with my mind oppressed by my defect in my duty of the victualling, which lies upon me as a burden till I get myself into a better posture therein, and hinders me and casts down my courage in everything else that belongs to me – and the jealousy I have of Sir W. Coventry's being displeased with me about it. But I hope in a little time to remedy all. As to public business: by late tidings of the French Fleete being come to Rochell (how true, though, I know not), our fleet is Divided; Prince Rupert being gone with about 30 ships to the Westward; as is conceived, to meet the French, to hinder their coming to join with the Dutch. My Lord Duke of Albemarle lies in the Downes with the rest, and intends presently to sail to the Gunfleete.

★ JUNE ★

2. Up, and to the office, where certain news is brought us of a letter come to the King this morning from the Duke of Albemarle, dated yesterday at 11 a-clock as they were sailing to the Gunfleet,