

got. I found my Lord and ladies and my wife at supper. My Lord seems very kind. But I am apt to think still the worst, and that it is only in show, my wife and Lady being there. So home and find my father come to lie at our house; and so supped and saw him, poor man, to bed – my heart never being fuller of love to him, nor admiration of his prudence and pains heretofore in the world then now, to see how Tom hath carried himself in his trade – and how the poor man hath his thoughts going to provide for his younger children and my mother. But I hope they shall never want. So myself and wife to bed.

13. To St. James – where I found Mr. Coventry (the Duke being now come thither for the summer) with a goldsmith, sorting out his old plate to change for new; but Lord, what a deal he hath. I stayed and had two or three hours discourse with him – talking about the disorders of our office, and I largely to tell how things are carried by Sir W. Batten and Sir J. Mennes to my great grief. He seems much concerned also, and for all the King's matters that are done after the same rate everywhere else, and even the Dukes household matters too – generally with corruption, but most ended with neglect and indifference. I spoke very loud and clear to him my thoughts of Sir J. Mennes and the other, and trust him with the using of them. Then to talk of our business with the Dutch; he tells me fully that he believes it will not come to a warr. For first he showed me a letter from Sir George Downing¹ his own hand, where he assures him that the Dutch themselves do not desire but above all things fear it. And that they neither have given letters of Mart against our ships in Guinny, nor doth De Ruyter stay at home with his fleet with an eye to any such thing, but for want of a wind, and is now come out and is going to the Streights. He tells me also that the most he expects is that upon the merchants' complaints, the parliament will represent them to the King, desiring his securing of his subjects against them. And though perhaps they may not directly see fit, yet even this will be enough to let the Dutch know that the Parliament do not oppose the King; and by that means take away their hopes, which was that the King of England could not get money or do anything towards a war with them. He tells me also that the Dutch States are in no good order themselves, differing one with another. And that for certain none but the States of Holland