

through a total want of money. I had no sooner done, but Prince Rupert rose up and told the King in a heat that whatever the gentleman had said, he had brought home his fleet in as good a condition as ever any fleet was brought home – that twenty boats would be as many as the fleet would want – and all the anchors and cables left in the storm might be taken up again. This arose from my saying, among other things we had to do, that the fleet was come in, the greatest fleet that ever his Majesty had yet together, and that in as bad condition as the enemy or weather could put it. And to use Sir W. Penn's words, who is upon the place taking a Survey, he dreads the reports he is to receive from the Surveyors of its defects. I therefore did only answer that I was sorry for his Highness's offence, but that what I said was but the report we received from those entrusted in the fleet to inform us. He muttered, and repeated what he had said; and so after a long silence on all hands, nobody, not so much as the Duke of Albemarle, seconding the Prince, nor taking notice of what he said, we withdrew. I was not a little troubled at this passage; and the more, when speaking with Jacke Fenn about it, he told me that the Prince will now be asking who this Pepys is, and find him to be a creature of my Lord Sandwiches, and therefore this was done only to disparage him. Anon they broke up and Sir W. Coventry came out, so I asked his advice: he told me he had said something to salve it, which was that his Highnesse had, he believed, rightly informed the King that the fleet is in good condition to have stayed out yet longer, and hath fought the enemy; but yet that Mr. Pepys his meaning might be that though in so good condition, if they should come in and lie all the winter, we shall be very loath to send them to sea for another year's service with[out] great repairs. He said it would be no hurt if I went to him and showed him the report himself brought up from the fleet, where every ship, by the commander's report, doth need more or less – and not to mention more of Sir W. Penn for doing him a mischief; so I said I would – but do not think that all this will redound to my hurt, because the truth of what I said will soon appear. Thence, having been informed that after all this pains the King hath found out how to supply us with 5 or 6000*l*, when 10000*l* were at this time but absolutely necessary, and we mentioned 5000*l* – this is every day a greater and greater omen of Ruine – God fit us for it – Sir J. Mennes and I home (it raining) by coach (calling only on Sir G. Carteret at his lodging, who is, I find, troubled at my Lord Treasurer and Sir Ph. Warwick bungling in his