

Pierpoint and Vaughan of the West privy councillors – that my Lord Chancellor was affronted in the Hall this day by people telling him of his Dunkirke house – and that there are Regiments ordered to be got together, whereof to be commanders my Lord Fairfax, Ingolsby, Bethell, Norton, and Birch and other presbyterians; and that Dr. Bates will have liberty to preach. Now whether this be true or not, I know not; but do think that nothing but this will unite us together. Late at night comes Mr. Hudson the cooper, my neighbour, and tells me that he came from Chatham this evening at 5 a-clock and saw this afternoon the *Royall James, Oake, and London* burnt by the enemy with their fireships; that two or three men-of-war came up with them, and made no more of Upner castle's shooting then of a fly – that these ships lay below Upner Castle (but therein I conceive he is in an error) – that the Dutch are fitting out the *Royall Charles* – that we shot so far as from the yard thither, so that the shot did no good, for the bullets grazed on the water – that Upner played hard with their guns at first, but slowly afterward, either from the men being beat off or their powder spent. But we hear that the fleet in the Hope is not come up any higher the last flood. And Sir W. Batten tells me that ships are provided to sink in the River about Woolwich, that will prevent their coming up higher if they should attempt it. I made my will also this day, and did give all I had equally between my father and wife – and left copies of it in each of Mr. Hater and W. Hewer's hands, who both witnessed the will; and so to supper and then to bed; and slept pretty well, but yet often waking.

14. A man of Mr. Gawden's came from Chatham last night and saw the three ships burnt, they lying all dry, and boats going from the men-of-war and fire them. But that that he tells me of worst consequence is that he himself (I think he said) did hear many Englishmen on board the Dutch ships, speaking to one another in English, and that they did cry and say, "We did heretofore fight for tickets; now we fight for Dollers!" and did ask how such and such a one did, and would commend themself to them – which is a sad consideration. And several seamen came this morning to me to tell me that if I would get their tickets paid, they would go and do all they could against the Dutch; but otherwise they would not venture being killed and lose all they have already fought for – so that I was forced to try what I could do to get them paid. And endeed, the hearts as well as affections of the seamen are turned away; and in the