

kinsman of Mr. Petts made up a fine company at my lodgings at Woolwich, where my wife and Mercer and Mrs. Barbara danced, and mighty merry we were, but especially at Mercer's dancing a Jigg, which she does the best I ever did see, having the most natural way of it and keeps time the most perfectly I ever did see. This night is kept, in lieu of yesterday, for my wedding-day of Ten Yeares¹ – for which God be praised – being now in an extreme good condition of health and estate and honour, and a way of getting more money – though at this hour under some discomposure, rather then dammage, about some prize goods that I have bought of the Fleete in partenership with Capt. Cocke – and for the discourse about the world concerning my Lord Sandwich, that he hath done a thing so bad; and indeed it must needs have been a very rash act. And the rather, because of a parliament now newly met to give money and will have some account of what hath already been spent – besides the precedent for a General to take what prizes he pleases – and the giving a pretence to take away much more then he entended, and all will lie upon him. And not giving to all the Commanders, as well as the Flags, he displeases all them – and offends even some of them, thinking others to be better served then themselves. And lastly, puts himself out of a power of begging anything again a great while of the King. Having danced my people as long as I saw fit to sit up, I to bed, and left them to do what they would. I forgot that we had W. Hewer there and Tom – and Golding, my barber at Greenwich, for our fiddler, to whom I did give xs.

12. Called up before day, and so I dressed myself and down, it being horrid cold, by water to my Lord Bruncker's ship, who advised me to do so, and it was civilly to show me what the King had commanded about the prize goods, to examine most severely all that had been done in the taking out any, with or without order, without respect to my Lord Sandwich at all – and that he had been doing of it, and find him examining one man. And I do find that extreme ill use was made of my Lord's order, for they did toss and tumble and spoil and break things in hold, to a great loss and shame, to come at the fine goods, and did take a man that knew where the fine goods were – and did this over and over again for many days – Sir W. Berkely being the chief hand that did it; but others did the

1. See above, p. 159 (10 October) & n.