

coach to see her mother; and I in another (being afeared at this busy time to be seen with a woman in a coach, as if I were idle) toward The[oph]. Turners; but met Sir W. Coventry's boy, and there in his letter find that the Dutch had made no motion since their taking Sherennesse; and the Duke of Albemarle writes that all is safe as to the great ships against any assault – the boom and Chaine¹ being so fortified; which put my heart into great joy. When I came to Sir W. Coventry's chamber, I find him abroad; but his clerk Powell doth tell me that ill news is come to Court of the Dutch breaking the Chaine at Chatham, which struck me to the heart, and to Whitehall to hear the truth of it; and there, going up the park stairs, I did hear some lackeys speaking of sad news come to Court, saying that hardly anybody in the court but doth look as if they cried; and would not go into the house for fear of being seen, but slunk out and got into a coach, and to The[oph]. Turner to Sir W. Turner's, where I met Roger Pepys, newly come out of the country (he and I talked aside a little, he offering a match for Pall, one Barnes, of whom we shall talk more the next time; his father married a Pepys). In discourse, he told me further that his grandfather, my great grandfather, had 800l per annum in Queen Elizabeth's time in the very town of Cottenham – and that we did certainly come out of Scotland with the Abbot of Crowland. More talk I had, and shall have more with him, but my mind is so sad and head full of all this ill news, that I cannot now set it down.

A short visit here, my wife coming to me, and took leave of The[oph].; and so home, where all our hearts do now ake; for the news is true, that the Dutch have broke the Chain and burned our ships, and perticularly the *Royall Charles*; other perticulars I know not, but most sad to be sure. And the truth is, I do fear so much that the whole kingdom is undone, that I do this night resolve to study with my father and wife what to do with the little that I have in money by me, for I give all the rest that I have in the King's hands for Tanger for lost. So God help us, and God knows what disorders we may fall into and whether any violence on this office, or perhaps some severity on our persons, as being reckoned by the silly people, or perhaps may by policy of State be thought fit to be condemned by the King and Duke of York, and so put to trouble; though God knows I have in my own person done my full duty, I am sure. So having with much ado finished my business at the office, I home to

1. Across the channel of the Medway.