

presently, and thither comes Sir Fr. Hollis, who is to command them all in some exploits he is to do with them on the enemy in the river. So we all down to Deptford and pitch upon ships and set men at work; but Lord, to see how backwardly things move at this pinch, notwithstanding that by the enemy's being now come up as high as almost the Hope, Sir J. Mennes (who was gone down to pay some ships there) hath sent up the money; and so we are possessed of money to [do] what we will with. Here I eat a bit; and then in the afternoon took boat and down to Greenwich, where I find the stairs full of people, there being a great Riding there today for a man, the constable of the town, whose wife beat him. Here I was with much ado fain to press two watermen to make me a galley; and so to Woolwich to give order for the despatch of a ship I have taken under my care to see despatched; and orders being so given, I, under pretence to fetch up the ship, which lay at Grays (the *Golden hand*), did do that in my way; and went down to Gravesend, where I find the Duke of Albemarle just come, with a great many idle lords and gentlemen with their pistols and fooleries, and the Bulworke not able to have stood half an hour had they come up; but the Dutch are fallen down from the Hope and Shell haven as low as the Sheerness, and we do plainly at this time hear the guns play. Yet I do not find the Duke of Albemarle intends to go thither, but stays here tonight and hath (though the Dutch are gone) ordered our frigates to be brought in a line between the two block-houses<sup>1</sup> – which I took then to be a ridiculous thing. So I away into the town and took a Captain or two of our ships (who did give me an account of the proceedings of the Dutch fleet in the river) to the tavern and there we eat and drank; and I find the town had removed most of their goods out of the town, for fear of the Dutch coming up to them; and Sir Jo. Griffen [told me] that last night there was not twelve men to be got in the town to defend it – which the master of the house tells me is not true; but that the men of the town did intend to stay, though they did indeed, and so had he (at the Ship), removed their goods. Thence went off to an Ostend man-of-war, just now come up, who met the Dutch fleet, who took three ships that he came convöying hither from him – says they are as low as the Nore or thereabouts. So I homeward, as long as it was light reading Mr. Boyles book of *Hydrostatickes*, which is a most excellent book as ever I read; and I will take much pains to

1. At Gravesend.