

consider with my father and wife of things; and then to supper and to bed with a heavy heart. The manner of my advising this night with my father was: I took him and my wife up to her chamber, and shut the door and there told them the sad state of the times; how we are like to be all undone – that I do fear some violence will be offered to this office, where all I have in the world is. And resolved upon sending it away – sometimes into the country, sometimes my father to lie in town and have the gold with him at Sarah Giles's, and with that resolution went to bed – full of fear and fright; hardly slept all night.

13. No sooner up but hear the sad news confirmed, of the *Royall Charles* being taken by them and now in fitting by them (which Pett should have carried up higher by our several orders, and deserves therefore to be hanged for not doing it) and burning several others, and that another fleet is come up into the Hope; upon which news the King and Duke of York have been below since 4 a-clock in the morning, to command the sinking of ships at Barking Creeke and other places, to stop their coming up higher; which put me into such fear that I presently resolved of my father's and wife's going into the country; and at two hours' warning they did go by the coach this day – with about 1300*l* in gold in their night-bag; pray God give them good passage and good care to hide it when they come home, but my heart is full of fear. They gone, I continued in frights and fear what to do with the rest. W. Hewer hath been at the banquiers and hath got 500*l* out of Backewell's hands of his own money; but they are so called upon that they will be all broke, hundreds coming to them for money – and their answer is, "It is payable at twenty days; when the days are out, we will pay you;" and those that are not so, they make tell over their money, and make their bags false on purpose to give cause to retell it and so spend time; I cannot have my 200 pieces of gold again for silver, all being bought up last night that were to be had – and sold for 24 and 25*s.* a-piece. So I must keep the silver by me, which sometimes I think to fling into the house of office – and then again, know not how I shall come by it if we be made to leave the office. Every minute some[one] or other calls for this order or that order; and so I forced to be at the office most of the day about the fireships which are to be suddenly fitted out; and it's a most strange thing that we hear nothing from any of my Brethren at Chatham; so that we are wholly in the dark, various being the reports of what is done there –