

again, where busy late, being very full nowadays of business, to my great content I thank God; and so home to bed – my house being full of a design to go tomorrow, my wife and all her servants, to see the new ship lanched.

26. Up – my people rising mighty betimes to fit themselves to go by water; and my boy, he could not sleep, but wakes about 4 a-clock and in bed lay playing on his lute till daylight, and it seems did the like last night till 12 a-clock. About 8 a-clock, my wife, she and her woman and Besse and Jane and W. Hewers and the boy, to the waterside and there took boat. And by and by, I out of doors to look after the Flagon, to get it ready to carry to Woolwich. That being not ready, I stepped aside and found out Nellson, he that Whistler buys his Bewpers of, and did there buy five pieces at their price. And am in hopes thereby to bring them down, or buy ourselfs all we spend of Nellson at the first hand. This jobb was greatly to my content. And by and by, the Flaggon being finished at the Burnishers, I home; and there fitted myself and took a hackney coach I hired (it being a very cold and fowle day) to Woolwich, all the way reading in a good book touching the Fishery; and that being done, in the book upon the statutes of Charitable uses, mightily to my satisfaction. At Woolwich, I there up to the King and Duke and they liked the plate well. Here I stayed above with them while the ship was lanched; which was done with great success, and the King did very much like the ship, saying she had the best bow that ever he saw. But Lord, the sorry talk and discourse among the great courtiers round about him, without any reverence in the world, but with so much disorder. By and by the Queen comes and her maids of honour; one whereof, Mrs. Boynton, and the Duchesse of Buckeingham, had been very sick coming by water in the barge (the water being very rough); but what silly sport they made with them, in very common terms methought, was very poor, and below what people think these great people say and do. The launching being done, the King and company went down to take barge; and I sent for Mr. Pett and put the Flaggon into the Dukes hand, and he, in the presence of the King, did give it, Mr. Pett taking it upon his knee. This, Mr. Pett is wholly beholding to me for, and he doth know and I believe will acknowledge it.

27. Up, and to the office, where all the morning busy. At noon Sir G. Carteret, Sir J. Mennes, Sir W. Batten, Sir W. Penn and myself