

us who did make mighty sport at the folly of their Acting, which I could not neither refrain from sometimes, though I was sorry for it. So away thence home, where to the office to do business a while, and then home to supper and to read, and then to bed. I was prettily served this day at the playhouse door; where giving six shillings into the fellow's hand for us three, the fellow by legerdemain did convey one away, and with so much grace face me down that I did give him but five, that though I knew the contrary, yet I was overpowered by his so grave and serious demanding the other shilling that I could not deny him, but was forced by myself to give it him. After I came home this evening comes a letter to me from Capt. Allin, formerly Clerk of the Ropeyard at Chatham and whom I was kind to in those days, who in recompense of my favour to him then doth give me notice that he hears of an accusation likely to be exhibited against me, of my receiving 50*l* of Mason the timber merchant, and that his wife hath spoke it. I am mightily beholden to Capt. Allin for this, though the thing is to the best of my memory utterly false, and I do believe it to be wholly so; but yet it troubles me to have my name mentioned in this business, and more to consider how I may be liable to be accused where I have ended taken presents, and therefore puts me upon an enquiry into my actings in this kind and prepare against a day of accusation.

26. Up, and by water to Charin cross stairs, and thence to W. Coventry to discourse concerning the state of matters in the Navy, where he perticularly acquainted me again with the trouble he is like to meet with about the selling of places, all carried on by Sir Fr. Hollis; but he seems not to value it, being able to justify it to be lawful and constant practice, and never by him used in the least degree since he upon his own motion did obtain a salary of 500*l* in lieu thereof. Thence to the Treasury chamber about a little business and so home by coach; and in my way did meet W. How going to the Commissioners of Accounts; I stopped and spoke to him, and he seems well resolved what to answer them, but he will find them very strict and not easily put off. So home and there to dinner; and after dinner comes W. How to tell me how he sped; who says he was used civilly and not so many questions asked as he expected, but yet I do perceive enough to show that they do entend to know the bottom of things and where to lay the great weight of the disposal of these East India goods, and that they entend plainly to do upon my Lord Sandwich.