

so to my office to read over such instructions as concern the officers of the yards; for I am much upon seeing into the miscarriages there. By and by, by appointment comes Comissioner Pett and then a messenger from Mr. Coventry, who sits in his boat expecting us; and so we down to him at the Tower and there took water all, and to Deptford (he in our passage taking notice how much difference there is between the old Captains for obedience and order, and the King's new Captains, which I am very glad to hear him confess); and there we went into the Storehouse and viewd, first the provisions there and then his books (but Mr. Davis himself was not there, he having a kinswoman in the house dead; for which, when by and by I saw him, he doth trouble himself most ridiculously, as if there was never another woman in the world); in which so much lazinesse, as also in the Clerkes of the Cheque and Survey (which after one another we did examine), as that I do not perceive that there is one-third of their duties performed. But I perceive, to my great content, Mr. Coventry will have things reformed.

3. Up by 4 a-clock and to my office till 8 o'clock, writing over two Cops of our contract with Sir Wm. Rider &c. for 500 ton of Hempe; which, because it is a secret, I have the trouble of writing over, as well as drawing. Then home to dress myself and so to the office – where another fray between Sir Rich: Ford and myself about his yarne. At noon, we all by invitation dined at the Dolphin with the Officers of the Ordinance; where Sir W. Compton and Mr. Oneale and other great persons were, and a very great dinner. But I drank, as I still do, but my allowance of wine. Then to my office all the afternoon, as long as I could see – about setting many businesses in order. In the evening came Mr. Lewes to me, and very ingeniously did inquire whether I did ever look into the business of the Chest at Chatham; and after my readiness to be informed did appear to him, he did produce a paper wherein he stated the government of the Chest to me; and upon the whole did tell me how it hath ever been abused, and to this day is, and what a meritorious act it would be to look after it; which I am resolved to do, if God bless me – and do thank him very much for it. So home; and after a turn or two upon the leads with my wife, who hath lately had but little of my company since I begun to fallow my business; but is contented therewith since she sees how I spend my time. And so to bed.