

board the *Royall James*. And there spent an hour, my Lord playing upon the Gittarr, which he now commends above all Musique in the world, because it is bass enough for a single voice, and is so portable, and manageable without much trouble. As an infinite secret, my Lord tells me the factions are high between the King and the Duke, and all the Court are in an uproare with their loose amours – the Duke of York being in love desperately with Mrs. Stewart. Nay, that the Duchesse herself is fallen in love with her new Maister of the Horse, one Harry Sidny, and another Harry Savill – so that God knows what will be the end of it. And that the Duke is not so obsequious as he used to be, but very high of late – and would be glad to be in the head of an army as generall; and that it is said that he doth propose to go and command under the King of Spayne in Flanders. That his amours to Mrs. Stewart are told the King – so that all is like to be nought among them. After he had given thanks to me for my kind visit and good counsel, on which he seems to set much by, I left him; and so away to my *Bezan* againe – and there to read in a pretty French book, *La Nouvelle Allegorique*, upon the strife between Rhetorique and its enemies – very pleasant. So after supper to sleep; and sailed all night, and came to Erith before break of day.

18. About 9 of the clock I went on shore there (calling by the way only to look upon my Lord Brouncker), and so hired an ill-favoured hoss and away to Greenwich to my lodgings, where I hear how rude the Souldiers have been in my absence, swearing what they would do with me – which troubled me; but however, after eating a bit, I to the office and there very late writing letters, and so home and to bed.

21. Up, and to the office, where all the morning doing business. And at noon home to dinner, and quickly back again to the office, where very busy all the evening; and late, sent a long discourse to Mr. Coventry by his desire, about the regulateing of the method of our payment of bills in the Navy – which will be very good; though it may be he did ayme principally at striking at Sir G. Carteret. So, weary, but pleased with this business being over, I home to supper and to bed.

22. Up, and by water to the Duke of Albemarle and there did some little business – but most to show myself, and mightily I am