

Chatham; and having done this and put it into order, we away, I not having time to eat my dinner; and so all in my Lord Brouncker's coach (that is to say, Brouncker, W. Penn, T. Harvy, and myself), talking of the other great matter with which they charge us, that is, of discharging men by ticket, in order to our defence in case that should be asked. We came to the Parliament door; and there, after a little waiting till the Committee was sat, we were, the House being very full, called in (Sir W. Penn went in and sat as a Member; and my Lord Brouncker would not at first go in, expecting to have a chair set for him; but after a few words I had occasion to mention him, and so he was called in, but without any more chair or respect paid him than myself); and so Brouncker and T. Harvy and I were there to answer, and I had a chair brought for me to lean my books upon; and so did give them such an account, in a series, of the whole business that had passed the office touching the matter, and so answered all Questions given me about it, that I did not perceive but they were fully satisfied with me and the business as to our Office; and then Comissioner Pett (who was by at all my discourse, and this held till within an hour after candlelight, for I had candles brought in to read my papers by) was to answer for himself, we having lodged all matters with him for execution. But Lord, what a tumultuous thing this committee is, for all the reputation they have of a great council, is a strange consideration; there being as impertinent Questions, and as disorderly proposed, as any man could make. But Comissioner Pett, of all men living, did make the weakest defence for himself; nothing to the purpose nor to satisfaction nor certain, but sometimes one thing and sometimes another, sometimes for himself and sometimes against him; and his greatest failure was (that I observed) from his not considering whether the Question propounded was his part to answer to or no, and the thing to be done was his work to do – the want of which distinction will overthrow him; for he concerns himself in giving an account of the disposal of the boats, which he had no reason at all to do, or take any blame upon him for them. None of my Brethren said anything but myself; only two or three silly words my Lord Brouncker gave, in answer to one Question about the number of men there in the King's yard at that time. At last the House dismissed us, and shortly after did adjourne the debate till Friday next; and my Cosen Pepys did come out and joy me in my acquitting myself so well, and so did several others, and my fellow-officers all very briske to see themselves so well acquitted – which