

who is still ill, and supped with her, my mind mighty full of trouble for the office and my concernments therein; and so to supper and talking with W. Hewer in her chamber about business of the office, wherein he doth well understand himself and our case, and it doth me advantage to talk with him and the rest of my people. I to bed below, as I did last night.

18. Up by break of day, and walked down to the Old Swan, where I find little Michell building, his Booth being taken down and a foundation laid for a new house, so that that street is like to be a very fine place. I drank, but did not see Betty. And so to Charing cross stairs, and thence walked to Sir W. Coventry and talked with him; who tells me how he hath been prosecuted, and how he is yet well come off in the business of the dividing of the fleet and the sending of the letter. He expects next to be troubled about the business of bad officers in the fleet, wherein he will bid them name whom they call bad and he will justify himself – having never disposed of any but by the Admiral's liking. And he is able to give an account of all them, how they came recommended, and more will be found to have been placed by the Prince and Duke of Albemarle then by the Duke of York during the war. And as a no bad instance of the badness of officers, he and I did look over the list of commanders, and found that we could presently recollect 37 commanders that have been killed in actual service this war. Thence walked over St. James's park to Whitehall; and thence to Westminster hall and there walked all the morning and did speak with several Parliament-men; among others, Birch, who is very kind to me and calls me, with great respect and kindness, a man of business, and he thinks honest; and so, long will stand by me and every such man to the death. Here I did get a copy of the report itself, about our paying off men by tickets; and am mightily glad to see it now, knowing the state of our case and what we have to answer to, and the more for that the House is like to be kept by other business today and tomorrow; so that against Thursday I shall be able to draw up some defence to put into some members' hands to inform them; and I think we may [make] a very good one, and therefore my mind is mightily at ease about it.

19. Up, and to the office, where all the morning drawing up an answer to the Report of the Committee for Miscarriages to the Parliament, touching our paying men by tickets – which I did do in