

— DECEMBER —

1. This morning to the office, full of resolution to spend the whole day at business. And there, among other things, I did agree with Poynter to be my clerk for my Victualling business. And so I all alone all the day long, shut up in my little closet at my office, drawing up instructions which I should long since have done for my Surveyors of the Ports – Sir W. Coventry desiring much to have them, and he might well have expected them long since. After dinner to it again; and at night had long discourse with Gibson, who is for Yarmouth, who makes me understand so much of the victualling business and the pursers trade, that I am shamed I should go about the concerning myself in a business which I understand so very very little of, and made me distrust all I had been doing today. So I did lay it by till tomorrow morning, to think of it fresh. And so home, by promise to my wife to have mirth there; so we have our neighbours, little Mis Tooker and Mrs. Daniels, to dance; and after supper I to bed and left them merry below, which they did not part from till 2 or 3 in the morning.

2. Up, and discoursing with my wife, who is resolved to go to London for good and all this day, we did agree upon giving Mr. Sheldon 10*l*, and Mrs. Barb. two pieces. And so I left her to go down thither to fetch away the rest of the things and pay him the money; and so I to the office, where very busy, setting Mr. Poynter to write out my last night's work; which pleases me this day, but yet it is pretty to reflect how much I am out of countenance with what I had done up[on] Gibsons discourse with me, for fear I should have done it sillily. But Poynter likes them, and Mr. Hater also; but yet I amafeared lest they should do it out of flattery, so conscious I am of my ignorance.

4. Several people to me about business; among others, Capt. Taylor, intended Storekeeper for Harwich, whom I did give some assistance in his despatch – by lending him money. So out, and by water to London, and to the Change and up and down about several businesses. And after the observing (God forgive me) one or two of my neighbour hermosa mohers come to town, which did please me very well, home to my house at the office, where my wife had got a dinner for me. And it was a joyful thing for us to meet here – for which God be praised. Here was her brother, come to see her and