

Prince could have come up to them – or at least till the weather was fair, that we might have the benefit of our whole force in the ships that we had. He says three things must [be] remedied, or else we shall be undone, by this fleet.

1. That we must fight in a line, whereas we fight promiscuously, to our utter and demonstrable ruine – the Dutch fighting otherwise – and we, whenever we beat them.
2. We must not desert ships of our own in distress as we did, for that makes a captain desperate, and will fling away his ship when there is no hopes left him of succour.
3. That ships, when they are a little shattered, must not take the liberty to come in of themselves; but refit themselves the best they can, and stay out – many of our ships coming in with very small disablings.

He told me that our very commanders, nay, our very flag-officers, do stand in need of exercizing among themselves and discoursing the business of commanding a fleet – he telling me that even one of our flagmen in the fleet did not know which Tacke lost the wind or which kept it in the last engagement. He says it was pure dismaying and fear that made them all run upon the Galloper, not having their wits about them; and that it was a miracle they were not all lost. He much inveighs upon my discoursing of Sir John Lawson's saying heretofore, that 60 sail would do as much as 100. And says that he was a man of no counsel at all, but had got the confidence to say as the gallants did, and did propose to himself to make himself great by them, and saying as they did; but was no man of judgment in his business, but had been out in the greatest points that have come before them. And then in the business of Forecastles, which he did oppose, all the world sees now the use of them for shelter of men. He did talk very rationally to me, insomuch that I took more pleasure this night in hearing him discourse then I ever did in my life in anything that he said. He gone, I to the office again; and so after some business, home to supper and to bed.

6. Up, and after doing some business at my office, abroad to Lumbardstreete, about the getting of a good sum of money; thence home, in preparation for my having some good sum in my hands, for fear of a trouble in the State, that I may not have all I have in the world out of my hands and so be left a beggar. Having put that in a way, I home to the office; and so to the Tower about shipping of