

Batten hath lately turned out of his place, merely because of his coming to me when he came to town before he went to him. And there he told me many rogueries of Sir W. Batten. How he knows and is able to prove that Capt. Cox of Chatham did give him 10*l* in gold to get him to certify for him at the King's coming in. And that Tom Newborne did make poor men give him 3*l* to get Sir W. Batten to cause them to be entered in the yard; and that Sir W. Batten hath oftentimes said – "By God, Tom, you shall get something and I will have some on't." His present Clerke that is come in Norman's room hath given him something for his place. That they live high and (as Sir Frances Clerkes Lady told his wife) do lack money as well as other people, and have bribes of a piece of Sattin and cabinetts and other things from people that deal with him; and that hardly anybody goes to sea or hath anything done by Sir W. Batten but it comes with a bribe; and that this is publicly true – that his wife was a whore and that he had Libells flung within his doors for a cuckold as soon as he was married. That he received 100*l* in money and in other things, to the value of 50 more of Hempson and that he entends to give him back but 50*l*. That he hath abused the Chest and hath now some 1000*l* by him of it.

4. Up; and my new Taylor, Langford, comes and takes measure of me for a new black cloth suit and cloak. And I think he will prove a very careful fellow and will please me well. Thence to attend my Lord Peterborough in bed and give him an account of yesterday's proceeding with Povey. I perceive I labour in a business will bring me little pleasure; but no matter, I shall do the King some service. Thence to the Coffee-house and to the Change a while. News uncertain how the Dutch proceed; some say for, some say against a warr. The plague encreases at Amsterdam. So home to dinner; and after dinner to my office, where very late, till my eyes (which begin to fail me nowadays by candlelight) begin to trouble me. Home at night to supper and to bed.

6. This morning up and to my office, where Sympson my Joyner came to work upon altering my closet, which I alter by setting the door in another place, and several other things to my great content. Busy at it all day; only, in the afternoon home and there, my books at the office being out of order, wrote letters and other businesses. So at night, with my head full of the business of my closet, home to bed. And strange it is to think how building doth fill my mind and