

board our best ships; and fight for certain they will. Thence to the Swan at Herberts, and there the company of Sarah a little while; and so away and called at the Harp and Ball, where the maid, Mary, is very formosa; but Lord, to see in what readiness I am, upon the expiring of my vowes this day, to begin to run into all my pleasures and neglect of business. Thence home; and being sleepy, to bed.

22. Up, and down to the ships, which now are hindered from going to the fleet (to our great sorrow and shame) with the provisions, the wind being against them. So to the Duke of Albemarle – and thence down by water to Deptford, it being Trinity Monday and so the day of choosing the Master of Trinity house for the next year – where, to my great content, I find that contrary to the practice and design of Sir W. Batten to break the rule and custom of the Company in choosing their Masters by succession, he would have brought in Sir W. Rider or Sir W. Pen over the head of Hurleston (who is a knave too besides, I believe): the Younger Brothers did all oppose it against the Elder, and with great heat did carry it for Hurleston – which I know will vex him to the heart. Thence, the election being over, to church; where an idle sermon from that conceited fellow Dr. Britton, saving that his advice to unity and laying aside all envy and enmity among them was very apposite. Thence walked to Redriffe, and so to the Trinity house; and a great dinner, as is usual. And so to my office, where busy all the afternoon till late; and then home to bed – being much troubled in mind for several things. First, for the condition of the fleet for lack of provisions. The blame this office lies under, and the shame that they deserve to have brought upon them for the ships not being gone out of the River. And then for my business of Tanger, which is not settled; and lastly, for fear that I am not observed to have attended the office business of late as much as I ought to do, though there hath been nothing but my attendance on Tanger that hath occasioned my absence, and that of late not much.

24. Up by 4 a-clock in the morning; and with W. Hewer there till 12 without intermission, putting some papers in order. Thence to the coffee-house with Creed, where I have not been a great while – where all the news is of the Dutch being gone out – and of the plague growing upon us in this town and of remedies against it; some saying one thing, some another.