

which I so wondered at; and did give him reasons against it, which he allowed of and told me that he did intend to pull down that house and build a less, and that he should get 1500*l* by the old house, and I know not what fooleries; but I will never believe he ever intended to buy it for my part, though he troubled Mr. Gawden to go and look upon it and advise him in it.

4. Up and to the office, where sat all the morning. Among other things, a great conflict I had with Sir W. Warren, he bringing a letter to the Board, flatly in words charging them with their delays in passing his accounts, which have been with them these two years – part of which I said was not true, and the other undecent. The whole Board was concerned to take notice of it, as well as myself, but none of them had the honour to do it, but suffered me to do it alone; only Sir W. Batten, which did what he did out of common spite to him. So I writ in the margin of the letter, “Returned as untrue,” and by consent of the Board did give it him again – and so parted. After dinner, to the office again and there late all the afternoon, doing much business; and with great content, home and to supper and to bed.

5. *Lords day*. Up; and going down to the waterside, I met Sir Jo. Robinson, and so with him by coach to Whitehall – still a vain, prating, boasting man as ever I know, as if the whole City and Kingdom had all its work done by him. He tells me he hath now got a street ordered to be continued, 40 feet broad, from Paul’s through Cannon street to the Tower, which will be very fine. He, and others this day where I was in the afternoon, doth tell me of at least six or eight fires within these few days, and continually stories of fires; and real fires there have been in one place or other almost ever since the late great fire, as if there was a fate over people for fire. I walked over the park to Sir W. Coventry; among other things, to tell him what I hear of people’s being forced to sell their bills before September for 35 and 40 per cent loss; and which is worst, that there are some Courtiers that have made a knot to buy them, in hopes of some ways to get money of the King to pay them – which Sir W. Coventry is amazed at, and says we are a people made up for destruction; and will do what he can to prevent all this, by getting the King to provide wherewith to pay them. We talked of Tanger, of which he is ashamed; also that it should put the King to this charge for no good in the world, and now a man going over that is a