

to supper and to bed. This day we have news of eight ships being taken by some of ours, going into the Texell, their two men of war that convoyed [them] running in. They came from about Ireland, round to the North.

10. Up betimes, and abroad to the Cockepitt, where the Duke¹ did give Sir W. Batten and me an account of the late taking of eight ships and of his² intent to come back to the Gunfleete with the fleet presently – which creates us much work and haste therein, against the fleet comes. So to Mr. Povy; and after discourse with him, home and thence to the Guard in Southworke, there to get some soldiers, by the Duke's order, to go keep press-men on board our ships. So to the Change and did much business; and then home to dinner and there find my poor mother come out of the country today, in good health; and I am glad to see her, but my business, which I am sorry for, keeps me from paying the respect I ought to her at her first coming – she being grown very weak in her judgment, and doting again in her discourse, through age and some trouble in her family. Left her and my wife to go abroad to buy something, and then I to my office. In the evening, by appointment to Sir W. Warren and Mr. Dering at a tavern hard by, with intent to do some good upon their agreement in a great bargain of plank. So home to my office again, and then to supper and to bed, my mother being in bed already.

12. By water to the Exchequer, and there up and down through all the offices to strike my tallies for 17500*l* – which methinks is so great a testimony of the goodness of God to me; that I, from a mean clerk there, should come to strike tallies myself for that sum, and in the authority that I do now, is a very stupendous mercy to me. I shall have them struck tomorrow. But to see how every little fellow looks after his fees, and to get what he can for everything, is a strange consideration – the King's Fees, that he must pay himself for this 17500*l*, coming to above 100*l*. Thence, called my wife at Unthankes, to the New Exchange and elsewhere to buy a lace band for me, but we did not buy. But I find it so necessary to have some handsome clothes, that I cannot but lay out some money thereupon.

1. Albemarle.

2. The Duke of York's.