

hopes of a great decrease this week: God send it. Much talk there is of the Chancellors speech, and the King's, at the Parliaments meeting, which are very well liked. And that we shall certainly, by their speeches, fall out with France at this time, together with the Dutch – which will find us work. Late at the office, entering my Journall for eight days past, the greatness of my business hindering me of late to put it down daily; but I have done it now very true and perticularly, and hereafter will, I hope, be able to fall into my old way of doing it daily. So to my lodging, and there had a good pullet to my supper; and so to bed, it being very cold again, God be thanked for it.¹

19. My business of the victualling goes on as I would have it; and now my head is full how to make some profit of it to myself or people. To that end, when I came home, I wrote a letter to Mr. Coventry, offering myself to be the Surveyor-Generall, and am apt to think he will assist me in it; but I do not set my heart much on it, though it would be a good help. So back to my office, and there till past one before I could get all these letters and papers copied out, which vexed me. But so sent them away without hopes of saving the post, and so to my lodging to bed.

23. Up, and after doing some business, I down by water, calling to see my wife, with whom very merry for ten minutes; and so to Erith, where my Lord Brouncker and I kept the office and despatched some business by appointment on the *Bizan*. Among other things, about the slopsellers who have trusted us so long; they are not able, nor can be expected to trust us further – and I fear this winter the fleet will be undone by that perticular. Thence on board the East India ship, where his Lordshipp had provided a great dinner, and thither comes by and by Sir Jo. Minnes, and before him Sir W. Warren – and anon a Perspective-glass maker, of whom we every one bought a pocket-glass. But I am troubled with the much talk and conceitedness of Mrs. Williams and her impudence, in case she be not married to my Lord. They are getting themselves ready to deliver the goods all out to the East India Company, who are to have the goods in their possession, and advance two-thirds of the moderate value thereof and sell them as well as they can, and the King to give them 6 per cent for the use of the money they shall so

1. The plague decreased in cold weather.