

defence. Myself got Fist, Sir W. Batten's clerk, and busy with him writing letters late; and then home to supper and to read myself asleep, after piping; and so to bed.

19. Up and to the office, where all the morning busy with Fist again, beginning early to overtake my business in my letters, which for a post or two have by the late and present troubles been interrupted. At noon comes Sir W. Batten and W. Penn, and we to W. Penn's house and there discoursed of business an hour; and by and by comes an order from Sir R. Browne, commanding me this afternoon to attend the Council board with all my books and papers touching the Medway. I was ready [to fear] some mischief to myself, though that that appears most reasonable is that it is to inform them about Comissioner Pett. I eat a little bit in haste at W. Batten's without much comfort, being fearful, though I show it not; and to my office and did get up some papers and find out the most material letters and orders in our books. And so took coach and to the Council chamber lobby, where I met Mr. Eveling, who doth miserably decry our follies that brings all this misery upon us. While we were discoursing over our public misfortunes, I am called in to a large committee of the Council: present, the Duke of Albemarle, Anglesy, Arlington, Ashly, Carteret, Duncomb, Coventry, Ingram, Clifford, Lauderdale, Morice, Manchester, Craven, Carlisle, Bridgewater; and after Sir W. Coventry's telling them what orders his Royal Highness had made for the safety of the Medway, I told them to great full content what we had done, and showed them our letters. Then was P. Pett call[ed] in with the Lieutenant of the Tower. He is in his old clothes, and looked most sillily. His charge was chiefly the not carrying up of the great ships, and the using of the boats in carrying away his goods; in which he answered very sillily – though his faults to me seem only great omissions. Lord Arlington and Coventry very severe against him; the former saying that if he was not guilty, the world would think them all guilty. The latter urged that there must be some fault, and that the Admiral must be found to have done his part. He said he used never a boat till they were all gone but one – and that was to carry away things of great value, and those were his models of ships; which when the Council, some of them, had said they wished that the Dutch had had them instead of the King's ships, he answered he did believe the Dutch would have made more advantage of the models then of the ships, and the King have had