

they told me about the taking of *Royall Charles*; that nothing but carelessness lost the ship, for they might have saved her the very tide that the Dutch came up, if they would have but used means and had had but boats, and that the want of boats plainly lost all the other ships. That the Dutch did take her with a boat of nine Men, who found not a man on board her (and her laying so near them was a main temptation to them to come on); and presently a man went up and struck her flag and Jacke, and a trumpeter sounded upon her “Joan’s placket is torn.” That they did carry her down at a time, both for tides and wind, when the best pilot in Chatham would not have undertaken it, they heeling her on one side to make her draw little water, and so carried her away safe. They being gone, by and by comes Sir W. Pen home, and he and I together talking. He tells me that it is most manifest that one great thing making it impossible for us to have set out a fleet this year (if we could have done it for money or stores) was the liberty given the beginning of the year for the setting out of merchantmen, which did take up, as is said, above 10 if not 15000 seamen (and this the other day Capt. Cocke tells me appears in the council-books; that is, the number of seamen required to man the merchant ships that had passes to go abroad); by and by, my wife being here, they sat down and eat a bit of their nasty victuals, and so parted and we to bed.

24. Up, and to the office, where much business upon me by the coming of people of all sorts about the despatch of one business or other of the fireships or other ships to be set out now. This morning Greeting came, and I with him at my flagelette. At noon dined at home with my wife alone; and then in the afternoon, all the day at my office — troubled a little at a letter from my father which tells me of an idle companion, one Coleman, who went down with him and my wife in the coach and came up again with my wife, a pensioner of the King’s Guard and one that my wife, endeed, made the feast for on Saturday last, though he did not come; but if he knows nothing of our money, I will prevent any other inconvenience. In the evening comes Mr. Povy about business, and he and I to walk in the garden an hour or two and to talk of State matters; he tells me his opinion that it is out of possibility for us to escape being undone, there being nothing in our power to do that is necessary for the saving us — a lazy prince — no council — no money; no reputation at home or abroad. He says that to this day the King doth fallow the women as much as ever he did. That the Duke of York hath not got