

to sing and then to bed, my eyes failing me mightily.

24. By coach to Sir Jo. Duncomb's lodging in the Pell Mell; and there awhile sat and discoursed; and I find him that he is a very proper man for business, being very resolute and proud and industrious. He told me what reformation they had made in the office of the Ordnance, taking away Legg's fees. Have got an order that no Treasurer after him shall ever sit at the Board, and it is a good one – that no maister of the Ordinance here shall ever sell a place. He tells me they have not paid any encrease of price for anything during this war, but in most have paid less. And at this day have greater stores then they know where to lay, if there should be peace, and then ever was any time this war. That they pay every man in course, and have notice of the disposal of every farding. Every man that they owe money to hath his share of every sum they receive. Never borrowed all this war but 3000*l* by the King's express command, but do usually stay until their assignments become payable in their own course; which is the whole mystery, that they have had assignments for a fifth part of whatever was assigned to the Navy. They have power of putting out and in of all officers. Are beginning upon a building that will cost them 1200*l*. That they out of their stock of tallies have been forced to help the Treasurer of the Navy at this great pinch. Then to talk of news: that he thinks the want of money hath undone the King, for the Parliament will never give the King more money without calling all people to account; nor, as he believes, will ever make war again but they will manage it themselves. He says that he believes but four men (such as he could name) would do the business of both offices, his and ours; and if ever the war were to do again, it should be so he believes. He told me to my face that I was a very good Clerk, and did understand the business and do it very well, and that he would never desire a better. He doth believe that the Parliament, if ever they meet, will offer some alterations to the King, and will turn some of us out. And I protest I think he is in the right, that either they or the King will be advised to some regulation; and therefore I ought to beware – as it is easy for me to keep myself up if I will.

26. Up, and by coach with W. Batten and W. Penn to Whitehall and there saw the Duke of Albemarle, who is not well and doth grow crazy.* And then I took a turn with Mr. Eveling, with whom walked two hours, till almost one of the clock – talking of the