

there – and nobody will own that they directed it, but do lay it on Sir W. Rider; they speak also of another ship, loaden to the value of 80000*l.*, sunk with the goods in her, or at least was mighily contended for by him, and a foreign ship that had the faith of the nation for her security; this Sir R. Ford tells us. And it is too plain a truth, that both here and at Chatham the ships that we have sunk have many, and the first of them, been ships completely fitted for fireships at great charge. But most strange, the backwardness and disorder of all people, especially the King's people in pay, to do any work (Sir W. Penn tells me), all crying out for money. And it was so at Chatham, that this night comes an order from Sir W. Coventry to stop the pay of the wages of that Yard, the Duke of Albemarle having related that not above three of 1100 in pay there did attend to do any work there. This evening, having sent a messenger to Chatham on purpose, we have received a dull letter from my Lord Brouncker and P. Pett how matters have gone there this week; but not so much, or so particular as we knew it by common talk before, and as true. I doubt they will be found to have been but slow men in this business; and they say the Duke of Albemarle did tell my Lord Brouncker to his face that his discharging of the great ships there was the cause of all this; and I am told that it is become common talk against my Lord Brouncker, but in that he is to be justified, for he did it by verball order from Sir W. Coventry, and with good intent; and was to good purpose, whatever the success* be, for the men would have but spent the King so much the more in wages, and yet not attended on board to have done the King any service. And this morning also, some of the *Cambriges* men came up from Portsmouth by order from Sir Fre. Hollis, who boasted to us the other day that he had sent for 50, and would be hanged if 100 did not come up, that would do as much as twice the number of other men: I say some of them, instead of being at work at Deptford where they were intended, do come to the office this morning to demand the payment of their tickets, for otherwise they would, they said, do no more work; and are, as I understand from everybody that have do with them, the most debauched, damning, swearing rogues that ever were in the Navy, just like their profane commander. So to W. Batten's to sit and talk a little; and then home to my flagelette, my heart being at pretty good ease by a letter from my wife, brought by Saunders, that my father and wife got well last night to their Inne and out again this morning, and Gibson's being got safe to Caxton at 12 last night. So