

man at a taverne for some Claretts, they did hire a fellow to thunder (which he had the art of doing upon a deale board) and to rain and hail; that is, make the noise of – so as did give them a pretence of undervaluing their Merchants wines, by saying this thunder would spoil and turn them – which was so reasonable to the Merchant that he did abate two *pistolls* per Ton for the wine, in belief of that – whereas, going out, there was no such thing. This Batelier did see and was the cause of, to his profit, as is above said. By and by broke up, and to bed.

22. Up and by coach with 100l to the Exchequer to pay fees there. There left it, and I to St. James's and there with the Duke of York. I had opportunity of much talk with Sir W. Penn today (he being newly come from the fleet); and he doth much undervalue the honour that is given to the conduct of the late business of Holmes in burning the ships and town, saying it was a great thing endeed, and of great profit to us, in being of great loss to the enemy; but that it was wholly a business of chance, and no conduct employed in it. I find Sir W. Penn doth hold up his head at this time higher then ever he did in his life. I perceive he doth look after Sir J. Mennes's place if he dies; and though I love him not, nor do desire to have him in, yet I do think him the ablest man in England for it. To the Chequer, and there received my tallies and paid my fees in good order. And so home, and there find Mrs. Knipp and my wife going to dinner. She tells me my song of *Beauty Retire* is mightily cried up – which I am not a little proud of; and do think I have done *It is Decreed* better, but I have not finished it. My Closet is doing by Upholsters, which I am pleased with, but fear my purple will be too sad for that melancholy room. After dinner and doing something at the office, I with my wife, Knepp, and Mercer by coach to Moorefields and there saw *Polichinelle*, which pleases me mightily; and here I saw our Mary, our last chambermaid, who is gone from Mrs. Pierce's it seems. Then carried Knipp home, calling at the Cocke alehouse at the door and drank. And so home and there find Reeves; and so up to look upon the Starrs, and do like my glass very well and did even with him for it, and a little perspective and the Lanthorne that shows tricks – all together costing me 9l 5s. So to bed, he lying at our house.

24. Up, and despatched several businesses at home in the morning; and then comes Sympson to set up my other new Presse