

drawing a letter, which I have done at last to my full content, to present to the Lords Commissioners for Tanger tomorrow. And about 7 at night, when finished my letter and weary, I and my wife and Mercer up by water to Barne elmes, where we walked by Mooneshine; and called at Lambeth and drank, and had cold meat in the boat, and did eat and sang, and down home by almost 12 at night, very fine and pleasant; only, could not sing ordinary songs with that freedom that otherwise I would. Here Mercer tells me that the pretty maid of the Ship tavern I spoke of yesterday is married there, which I am glad of. So having spent this night with much serious pleasure, to consider that I am in a condition to fling away an angell in such a refreshment to myself and family, we home and to bed, leaving Mercer by the way at her own door.

22. Up, and with Sir W. Batten and J. Mennes to St. James's, where the first time I have been there since the enemy's being with us. Where little business but lack of money, which now is so professed by Sir W. Coventry as nothing is more, and the King's whole business owned to be at a stand for want of it. So up to my Lord Chancellors, where was a Committee of Tanger in my Lord's Roome where he is to hear causes, where all the Judges' pictures hang up very fine. Here I read my letter to them, which was well received and they did fall seriously to discourse the want of money and other particulars, and to some pretty good purpose. But to see how Sir W. Coventry did oppose both my Lord Chancellor and the Duke of York himself, about the order of the Commissioners of the Treasury to me for not paying of Pensions, and with so much reason and eloquence, so natural, was admirable – and another thing, about his pressing for the reduction of the charge of Tanger, which they would have put off to another time; "But," says [he], "the King suffers so much by the putting off of the consideration of reductions of charge, that he is undone; and therefore I do pray you, Sir," (to his Royal Highness) "that when anything offers of that kind, you will not let it scape you." I perceive they do all profess their expectation of a peace, and that suddenly; and do advise of things accordingly – and do all speak of it (and expressly I remember the Duke of Albemarle) saying that they hoped for it.

23. Up betimes and to the office, doing something towards our great account to [the] Lords Commissioners of the Treasury; and anon the office sat, and all the morning doing business. At noon