

sat all the afternoon; and then at night to take my finall leave of Mrs. Bland, who sets out tomorrow for Tanger. And then I back to my office till past 12, and so home to supper and to bed.

24. Up, and to my office, where all the morning – upon advising again with some Fishermen and the Waterbayliffe of the City, by Mr. Coventry's direction, touching the protections¹ which are desired for the fishermen upon the River; and I am glad of the occasion to make me understand something of it. At noon home to dinner, and all the afternoon, till 9 at night, in my chamber, and Mr. Hater with me (to prevent being disturbed at the office), to perfect my contract-book, which for want of time hath a long time lain without being entered in, as I used to do, from month to month.

25. Up, and to the office, where all the morning. At noon to the Change; where just before I came, the Swede that had told the King and the Duke so boldly this great lie, of the Dutch flinging our men back to back into the sea at Guinny, so perticularly and readily and confidently, was whipped round the Change – he confessing it a lie, and that he did it in hopes to get something. Thence to the Sun Taverne, and there dined with Sir W. Warren and Mr. Gifford the merchant; and I hear how Nich. Colborne, that lately lived and got a great estate there, is gone to live like a prince in the country; and that this Wadlow, that did the like at the Devil by St. Dunstanes, did go into the country, and there spent almost all he had got, and hath now choused this Colborne out of his house, that he might come to his old trade again. Thence home to the office, where despatch much business; at night late home and to clean myself with warm water; my wife will have me, because she doth herself; and so to bed.

27. Up, and to St. James's, where we attend the Duke as usual. At home to dinner; and then in Sir J. Mennes's coach, my wife and I with him, and also Mercer, abroad; he and I to Whitehall, and he would have his coach to wait upon my wife on her visits – it being the first time my wife hath been out of doors (but the other day to bath her) several weeks. We to a committee of the Council to discourse concerning pressing of men; but Lord, how they meet; never sit down – one comes, now another goes, then comes another

i. From the press-gang.