

and to Whitehall, thinking to have met Sir G. Carteret, but failed. So to the Swan at Westminster, and there spent quarter of an hour with Jane and thence away home. This evening, being weary of my late idle courses and the little good I shall do the King or myself in the office, I bound myself to very strict rules till Whitsunday next.

5. At the office all the morning. After dinner, upon a letter from the fleet from Sir W. Coventry, I did do a great deal of work for the sending away of the victuallers that are in the River &c. – too much to remember. Till 10 at night busy about letters and other necessary matters of the office. About 11, I home, it being a fine moonshine; and so my wife and Mercer came into the garden, and my business being done, we sang till about 12 at night with mighty pleasure to ourselves and neighbours, by their Casements opening. And so home to supper and to bed.

7. Up betimes to set my victualling papers in order against Sir W. Coventry comes – which indeed makes me very melancholy, being conscious that I am much to seek in giving good answer to his queries about the victualling businesses. At the office mighty busy, and brought myself into a pretty plausible condition before Sir W. Coventry came, and did give him a pretty tolerable account of everything; and went with him unto the Victualling Office, where we sat and examined his businesses and state of the victualling of the fleet; which made me in my heart blush that I could say no more to it then I did or could – but I trust in God I shall never be in that condition again. We parted, and I with pretty good grace; and so home to dinner, where my wife troubled more and more with her swollen cheek. So to dinner, my sister-in-law with us, who I find more and more a witty woman. And then I to my Lord Treasurer's and the Exchequer about my Tanger businesses. And with mighty content passed by all things and persons, without so much as desiring any stay or loss of time with them, being by strong vow obliged on no occasion to stay abroad but my public offices. So home again, where I find Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Ferrers come to see my wife. I stayed a little with them, being full of business; and so to the office, where busy till late at night; and so, weary – and a little conscious of my failures today, yet proud that the day is over without more observation on Sir W. Coventry's part; and so to bed and to sleep soundly.