

attended, and by and by were called in to the King and Cabinet, where my Lord, who was ill, did lie upon the bed, as my old Lord Treasurer or Chancellor heretofore used to. And the business was to know in what time all the King's ships might be repaired fit for service; the Surveyor answered, "In two years and not sooner." I did give them hopes that with supplies of money suitable, we might have them all fit for sea some part of the summer after this. Then they demanded in what time we could set out 40 ships: it was answered, as they might be chosen of the newest and most ready, we could, with money, get 40 ready against May. The King seemed mighty full that we should have money to do all that we desired, and satisfied that without it nothing could be done; and so, without determining anything, we were dismissed; and I doubt all will end in some little fleet this year, and those of hired merchantmen; which would ended be cheaper to the King, and have many conveniences attending it, more then to fit out the King's own. And this I perceive is designed, springing from Sir W. Coventry's counsel; and the King and most of the Lords, I perceive, full of it, to get the King's fleet all at once in condition for service.

25. Up and to the Committee of Tanger, where little done. And thence I home by my own coach, and busy after dinner at my office, all the afternoon till late at night, that my eyes were tired. So home, and my wife showed me many excellent prints of Nantueil's and others, which W. Batelier hath at my desire brought me out of France of the King's and Colberts and others, most excellent, to my great content. But he hath also brought over a great many gloves perfumed, of several sorts; but all too big by half for her, and yet she will have two or three dozen of them, which vexed me and made me angry; so she at last, to please me, did come to take what alone I thought fit; which pleased me. So after a little supper, to bed – my eyes being very bad.

26. Up and to the office, where busy sitting all the morning. Then to the office again, and then to Whitehall, leaving my wife at Unthanked; and I to the Secretary's chamber, where I was by particular order this day summoned to attend, as I find Sir D. Gawden also was, and here was the King and the Cabinet met; and being called in among the rest, I find my Lord Privy Seale, whom I never before knew to be in so much play as to be of the Cabinet. The business is that the Algerins have broke the peace with us, by taking