

estate besides his office. A good dinner we had of *bœuf à la mode*, but not dressed so well as my wife used to do it. So after dinner I to the French church; but that being too far begun, I came back to St. Dunstans by us, and heard a good sermon and so home.

DECEMBER

2. My wife troubled all last night with the toothake, and this morning I up and to my office, where busy; and so home to dinner with my wife, who is better of her teeth then she was. And in the afternoon by agreement called on by Mr. Bland, and with him to the Ship, a neighbour tavern and there met his Antagonist Mr. Custos and his referee Mr. Clerke, a merchant also, and begun the dispute about the freight of a ship hired by Mr. Bland to carry provisions to Tanger, and the freight is now demanded; whereas, he says that the goods were some spoiled, some not delivered; and upon the whole, demands 1300*l* of the other. And their minds are both so high, their demands so distant, and their words so many and hot against one another, that I fear we shall bring it to nothing. But however, I am glad to see myself so capable of understanding the business as I find I do, and shall endeavour to do Mr. Bland all the just service I can therein. Here we were in a bad room, which vexed me most; but we meet at another house next. So at noon I home and to my office till 9 a-clock; and so home to my wife to keep her company; Arithmetique; then to supper and to bed – she being well of her teeth again.

4th. Up pretty betimes; that is, about 7 a-clock, it being now dark then. And so got me ready with my clothes, breeches and warm stockings, and by water with Henry Russell, cold and wet and windy, to Woolwich to a hemp ship there; and stayed looking upon it and giving direction as to the getting it ashore, and so back again, very cold; and at home, without going on shore anywhere, about 12 a-clock, being fearful of taking cold. And so dined at home – and shifted myself, and so all the afternoon at my office till night, and then home to keep my poor wife company; and so to supper and to bed.

6. *Lords day.* Lay long in bed; and then up and to church alone