

Dribble the German Doctor do offer, of an Instrument to sink ships, he tells me that which is more strange: that something made of gold, which they call in Chymistry *Aurum Fulminans*; a grain, I think he said, of it put into a silver spoon and fired, will give a blow like a musquett and strike a hole through the spoon downward, without the least force upward.

12. To [my Lord's] lodgings. Anon my Lord doth come in and I begun to fall in discourse with him; but my heart did misgive me that my Lord would not take it well, and then found him not in a humour to talk; and so after a few ordinary words, my Lord not talking in that manner as he uses to do, I took leave and spent some time with W. Howe; and told him how I could not do what I had so great a mind and resolution to do, but that I thought it would be as well to do it in writing; which he approves of, and so I took leave of him and by coach home, my mind being full of it and in pain concerning it. So to my office, busy very late, the nights running on faster then one thinks. And so home to supper and to bed.

13. To dinner, where I expected Comissioner Pett; and had a good dinner, but he came not. After dinner came my Perriwigg-maker and brings me a second perriwigg, made of my own hair; which comes to 21s. and 6d. more then the worth of my own hair – so that they both come to 4l 1s. 6d., which he sayth will serve me two years – but I fear it. He being gone, I to my office and put on my new Shagg purple gown with gold buttons and loop lace – I being a little fearful of taking cold and of pain coming upon me. Here I stayed, making an end of a troublesome letter, but to my advantage against Sir W. Batten, giving Sir G. Carteret an account of our late great contract with Sir W. Warren for masts; wherein I am sure I did the King 600l service. After that, about 9 or 10 a-clock, to supper in my wife's chamber, and then about 12 to bed.

14. By the way, I hear today that my boy Waynman hath behaved himself so with Mr. Davis, that they have got him put into a Barbados ship to be sent away; and though he sends to me to get a release for him, I will not, out of love to the boy; for I doubt to keep him here were to bring him to the gallows.

15. *Lords day*. I dined by myself; and in the afternoon to my office again and there drew up a letter to my Lord, stating to him what the