

for passing the Act of Indemnity, he did advise the King that he would hold his hand in doing it, till he had got his power restored that had been diminished by the late times, and his revenue settled in such a manner as he might depend on himself, without resting upon Parliaments, and then pass it. But my Lord Chancellor, who thought he could have the command of Parliaments for ever, because for the King's sake they were awhile willing to grant all the King desire[d], did press for its being done; and so it was, and the King from that time able to do nothing with the Parliament almost. Thence to the office, where sat all the forenoon; and then home to dinner and so to the office, where late busy; and so home, mightily pleased with the news brought me tonight, that the King and the Duke of York are come back this afternoon to town, and no sooner come but a Warrant was sent to the Tower for the releasing Sir W. Coventry.

21. Met with Mr. May, who tells me the story of his being put by Sir John Denham's place (of Surveyor of the King's Works, who it seems is lately dead) by the unkindness of the Duke of Buckingham, who hath brought in Dr. Wren – though he tells me he hath been his servant for twenty years together, in all his wants and dangers, saving him from want of bread by his care and management, and with a promise of having his help in his advancement, and an engagement under his hand for 1000*l* not yet paid; and yet the Duke of Buckingham is so ungrateful as to put him by – which is an ill thing – though Dr. Wren is a worthy man. But he tells me that the King is kind to him, and hath promised him a pension of 300*l* a year out of the Works, which will be of more content to him than the place, which under their present wants of money is a place that disobliges most people, being not able to do what they desire to their lodgings.

23. Up and to my office to do a little business there; and so my things being all ready, I took coach with Commissioner Middleton, Capt. Tinker and Mr. Hutchinson, a hackney coach, and over the bridge, and so out towards Chatham; and dined at Dartford, where we stayed an hour or two, it being a cold day; and so on and got to Chatham just at night, with very good discourse by the way; but mostly of matters or religion, wherein Hutchinson his vein lies. After supper we fell to talk of spirits and apparitions, whereupon many pretty particular stories were told, so as to make me almost