

troubles most is the Clergy, which will never content the City, which is not to be reconciled to Bishoppes; the more the pity that differences must still be. Dunkirke newly sold and the money brought over – of which we hope to get some to pay the Navy – which, by Sir J. Lawson's having dispatched the business in the Straights by making peace with Argier, Tunis and Tripoly, and so his fleet will also shortly come home, will now every day grow less, and so the King's charge be abated – which God send.

❖ DECEMBER ❖

1. Up and by coach with Sir J. Mennes and Sir W. Batten to Whitehall to the Duke's chamber; where, as is usual, my Lord Sandwich and all us, after his being ready, to his closet and there discoursed of matters of the Navy. And here Mr. Coventry did do me the great kindness to take notice to the Duke of my pains in making a collection of all Contracts about Masts, which hath been of good use to us. Thence I to my Lord Sandwiches to Mr. Moore to talk a little about business; and then over the parke (where I first in my life, it being a great frost, did see people sliding with their Sckeates, which is a very pretty art) to Mr. Coventry's chamber to St. James's, where we all met to a venison pasty; and were here very merry. Here we stayed till 3 or 4 a-clock, and so to the Council chamber, where there met – the Duke of Yorke, Prince Robert, Duke of Albermarle, my Lord Sandwich, Sir Wm. Compton, Mr. Coventry, Sir J. Minnes, Sir R. Ford, Sir W. Rider, myselfe, and Capt. Cuttance, as Commissioners for Tanager. And after our Comission was read by Mr. Creede, who I perceive is to be our Secretary, we did fall to discourse of matters. As first, the supplying of them forthwith with victualls; then the Reducing it to make way for the money which upon their reduction is to go to the building of the molde. And so to other matters ordered against next meeting. This done, we broke up and I to the Cockepitt, with much crouding and waiting, where I saw *The Valiant Cidd* acted – a play I have read with great delight, but is a most dull thing acted (which I never understood before), there being no pleasure in it, though done by Baterton and my Ianthe and another fine wench that is come in the room of Roxalana. Nor did the King or Queene once smile all the whole play, nor any of the company seem to take any pleasure but