

them, and for some great reason I am sure; or else it pleases God, by my late care of business, to make me more considerable even with them then I am sure they would willingly own me to be. God make me thankful and careful to preserve myself so – for I am sure they hate me, and it is hope or fear that makes them flatter me. It being a bright night, which it hath not been a great while, I purpose to endeavour to be called in the morning to see the Comett; though I fear we shall not see it, because it rises at the highest but 16 degrees, and then the houses will hinder us.

24. Having sat up all night, to past 2 a-clock this morning, our porter, being appointed, comes and tells us that the Bellman tells him that the star is seen upon Tower hill. So I, that had been all night setting in order all my old papers in my chamber, did leave off all; and my boy and I to Tower hill, it being a most fine bright moonshine night and a great frost, but no Comett to be seen; so after running once round the Hill, I and Tom, we home and then to bed. Rose about 9 a-clock; and then to the office, where sitting all the morning. At noon to the Change to the Coffee-house, and there heard Sir Rd. Ford tell the whole story of our defeat at Guinny – wherein our men are guilty of the most horrid cowardize and perfidiousness, as he says and tells it, that ever Englishmen were. Capt. Raynolds, that was the only commander of any of the King's ships there, was shot at by De Ruyter, with a bloody flag flying. He, instead of opposing (which ended had been to no purpose, but only to maintain honour), did poorly go on board himself to ask what DeRuter would have; and so yielded to whatever Ruyter would desire. The King and Duke are highly vexed at it, it seems, and the business deserves it. Thence home to dinner and then abroad to buy some things; and among others, to my bookseller's and there saw several books I spoke for, which are finely bound and good books, to my great content. So home and to my office, where late. This evening, I being informed, did look and saw the Comett, which is now, whether worn away or no I know not, but appears not with a tail; but only is larger and duller then any other star, and is come to rise betimes and to make a great arch, and is gone quite to a new place in the heavens then it was before – but I hope, in a clearer night something more will be seen. So home to bed.

25. *Lords day and Christmas Day.* Up (my wife's eye being ill still of the blow I did in a passion give her on Monday last) to church alone