

thither. At Comissioner Petts we did eat and drink very well, and very merry we were. And about 10 at night, it being moonshine and very cold, we set out, his coach carrying us, and so all night travelled to Greenwich – we sometimes sleeping a little, and then talking and laughing by the way; and with much pleasure, but that it was very horrible cold, that I was afeared of an ague. A pretty passage was that the coach stood of a sudden, and the coachman came down, and the horses stirring, he cried “Hold!” which waked me; and the coach[man] standing at the boot to [do] something or other, and crying “Hold!”, I did wake of a sudden; and not knowing who he was nor thinking of the coachman, between sleeping and waking I did take up the heart to take him by the shoulder, thinking verily he had been a thief. But when I waked, I found my cowardly heart to discover a fear within me, and that I should never have done it if I had been awake.

22. Up betimes, and to the office, meaning to have entered my last five or six days' journall, but was called away by my Lord Bruncker and Sir J. Mennes; and to Blackewall, there to look after the storehouses, in order to the laying of goods out of the East India ships when they shall be unloaden. That being done, we into Johnsons house and were much made of – eating and drinking. But here it is observable what he tells us; that digging his late Docke, he did 12-foot under ground find perfect trees over-Covered with earth – nut-trees, with the branches and the very nuts upon them – some of whose nuts he showed us – their shells black with age and their Kernell, upon opening, decayed; but their shell perfectly hard as ever. And an Ewe tree he showed us (upon which he says the very Ivy was taken up whole about it), which upon cutting with an addes, we found to be rather harder then the living tree usually is – they say very much; but I do not know how hard a yew-tree naturally is.

23. Up, and to my Lord Sandwich – who did advise alone with me how far he might trust Capt. Cocke in the business of the prize goods – my Lord telling me that he hath taken into his hands 2 or 3000*l* value of them. It being a good way, he says, to get money, and afterward to get the King's allowance thereof – it being easier, he observes, to keep money when got of the King, then to get it when it is too late. I advised him not to trust Cocke too far. And did thereupon offer him ready money for a thousand pound or two,