

mighty free to tell his parentage, being a shoemaker's son, to whom he is now going. And I to the Change – where I hear how the French have taken two and sunk one of our Merchantmen in the Streights and carried the ships to Toulon – so that there is no expectation but we must fall out with them. The Change pretty full, and the town begins to be lively again – though the streets very empty and most shops shut. So back again I, and took boat and called for Sir Chr. Mings at St. Katharines, who was fallowed with some ordinary friends, of which he says he is proud; and so down to Greenwich, the wind furious high, and we with our sail up till I made it be taken down. I took him, it being 3 a-clock, to my lodgings, and did give him a good dinner and so parted, he being pretty close to me as to any business of the fleet, knowing me to be a servant of my Lord Sandwiches. He gone, I to the office till night; and then they come and tell me my wife is come to town, so I to her, vexed at her coming; but it was upon innocent business, and so I was pleased and made her stay, Capt. Ferrers and his lady being yet there. And so I left them to dance, and I to the office till past 9 at night; and so to them and there saw them dance very prettily, the Captain and his wife, my wife, and Mrs. Barbary and Mercer, and my landlady's daughter; and then little Mrs. Fr. Tooker and her mother, a pretty woman, come to see my wife. Anon to supper, and then to dance again (Golding being our fidler, who plays very well and all tunes) till past 12 at night, and then we broke up and everyone to bed.

27. Up, and after some pleasant discourse with my wife, I out, leaving her and Mrs. Ferrers there; and I to Capt. Cocke's, there to do some business; and then away with Cocke in his coach through Kent street, a miserable, wretched, poor place, people sitting sick and muffled up with plasters at every four or five door. So to the Change, and thence I by water to the Duke of Albemarle; and there much company, but I stayed and dined, and he makes mighty much of me; and here he tells us the Dutch are gone, and have lost above 160 cables and anchors through the last foul weather. Here he proposed to me from Mr. Coventry (as I had desired of Mr. Coventry) that I should be Surveyor-Generall of the victualling business, which I accepted. But endeed, the terms in which Mr. Coventry proposes it for me are the most obliging that ever I could expect from any man, and more – it saying me to be the fittest man in England, and that he is sure, if I will undertake it, I will perform it – and that it will be also a very desirable thing that I might have this