

THE DIARY

1665

JANUARY. 166 $\frac{4}{5}$.

1. *Lords day.* Lay long in bed, having been busy late last night. Then up and to my office, where upon ordering my accounts and papers with respect to my understanding my last year's gains and expense, which I find very great, as I have already set down yesterday. Now this day, I am dividing my expense, to see what my clothes and every peticular hath stood me in; I mean, all the branches of my expense.

At noon, a good venison pasty and a turkey to ourselves, without anybody so much as invited by us – a thing unusual for so small a family of my condition – but we did it and were very merry. After dinner to my office again, where very late alone upon my accounts, but have not brought them to order yet; and very intricate I find it, notwithstanding my care all the year to keep things in as good method as any man can do.

Past 11 a-clock, home to supper and to bed.

2. Up, and it being a most fine hard frost, I walked a good way toward White-hall; and then being overtaken with Sir W. Penn's coach, went into it, and with him thither and there did our usual business with the Duke. Thence, being forced to pay a great deal of money away in boxes¹ (that is, basons at White-hall), I to my barbers, Gervas's, and there had a little opportunity of speaking with my Jane alone, and did give her something; and of herself she did tell me a place where I might come to her on Sunday next, which I will not fail; but to see how modestly and harmlessly she brought it out was very pretty. Thence to the Swan, and there did sport a good while with Herbert's young kinswoman² without hurt though, they being abroad, the old people. Then to the hall, and there agreed with Mrs. Martin, and to her lodgings which she hath now taken to lie in, in^a Bow streete – pitiful poor things, yet she thinks them pretty;

a MS. 'in in'

1. Christmas or New Year boxes
(for tips).

2. Probably Sarah Udall: below,
p. 65.

and so they are for her condition I believe, good enough. Here I did ce que je voudrais avec her most freely; and it having cost me 2s in wine and cake upon her, I away, sick of her impudence – and by coach to my Lord Brunkers by appointment, in the piazza in Covent-Guarding – where I occasioned much mirth with a ballet I brought with me, made from the seamen at sea to their ladies in town¹ – saying Sir W. Penn, Sir G Ascue, and Sir J Lawson made them. Here a most noble French dinner and banquet, the best I have seen these many a day, and good discourse. Thence to my bookseller's and at his binders saw Hookes book of the Microscope,² which is so pretty that I presently bespoke it; and away home to the office, where we met to do something; and then, though very late, by coach to Sir Ph. Warwickes; but having company with him, could not speak with him. So back again home, where, thinking to be merry, was vexed with my wife's having looked out a letter in Sir Ph. Sidny about jealousy for me to read,³ which she industriously and maliciously caused me to do; and the truth is, my conscience told me it was most proper for me, and therefore was touched at it; but took no notice of it, but read it out most frankly. But it stuck^a in my stomach; and moreover,^b I was vexed to have a dog brought to my house to lime our little bitch, which they make him do in all their sights; which God forgive me, doth stir my Jealousy again, though of itself the thing is a very immodest sight.

However, to Cards with my wife a good while, and then to bed.

a repl. symbol rendered illegible

b repl. 'the'

1. The ballad 'To all you ladies now at land', written (probably in 1664) by Lord Buckhurst, later Earl of Dorset. A ballad-sheet, now untraced, was entered in the Stationers' Register, 30 December 1664, entitled 'The Noble seamans complaint to the Ladies at London, to the tune of Shackerley Hay': *Trans. Stat. Reg.*, ii. 351. There is no copy in the PL. (E).

2. Robert Hooke's *Micrographia* (1665; PL 2116). For a note on its binding, see H. M. Nixon in the

forthcoming catalogue of the PL. Pepys later had it embellished with an index and marginal notes in the hand of an amanuensis. It is reprinted (from the 1745 edition) in Gunther, vol. xiii. The bookseller was Joshua Kirton, of St Paul's Churchyard.

3. In the third Eclogue of the third book of the *Arcadia* ('a Jealous husband made a Pander to his own wife'). Pepys retained the 1674 edition: PL 2214.

3. Up, and by coach to Sir Ph. Warwicks, the street being full of footballs, it being a great frost.¹ And find^a him and Mr. Coventry walking in St. James park. I did my errand to him about the felling of the King's timber in the forests, and then to my Lord of Oxford, Justice in Eyre, for his consent thereto, for want whereof my Lord Privy Seale stops the whole business.² I found him in his lodgings, in but an ordinary furnished house and room where he was, but I find him to be a man of good discreet replies.

Thence to the Coffee-house, where certain news that the Dutch have taken some of our Colliers to the north – some say four, some say seven.³

Thence to the Change a while, and so home to dinner and to the office, where we sat late, and then I to write my letters. Then to Sir W. Batten's, who is going out of town to Harwich tomorrow, to set up a Light-house there which he hath lately got a patent from the King to set up, that will turn much to his profit.⁴ Here very merry, and so to my office again, where very late, and then home to supper and to bed – but sat up with my wife at cards till past 2 in the morning.

4. Lay long; then up and to my Lord of Oxford's, but his Lordshipp was in bed at past 10 a-clock: and Lord help us, so rude a dirty family I never saw in my life. He sent me out word

a repl. 'then'

1. Play would be possible since the streets would be empty of horse-traffic. Regulations against football in the streets were periodically issued (e.g. in January 1669: Mdx R.O., Sessions Bk 253, p. 22) but are said to have ceased at about this time: M. Marples, *Hist. Football*, ch. vii, esp. p. 83. Warwick lived in the Outer Spring Garden.

2. Oxford was Warden and Chief Justice in Eyre of the royal forests south of Trent; he lived in the Piazza, Covent Garden. Timber in royal forests was felled under the supervision of naval purveyors on the authority of the Treasurer authenticated by privy seal warrants: cf.

CSPD 1664-5, p. 129. By mid-February the work was under way: ib., p. 200; *Shorthand Letters*, pp. 25, 27.

3. Capt. Banckert had taken four, according to *The Newes*, 12 January, p. 31.

4. Cf. above, v. 314. The patent (24 December 1664) allowed him to erect two lighthouses, and secured the revenue to him and his assigns for 61 years. The tolls levied were to be $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per ton on English ships, and $1d.$ a ton on foreign. PRO, C 66/3062, pt 12, no. 5; summary in CSPD 1664-5, p. 129. His will (1665) shows these revenues as forming a large part of his assets.

my business was not done, but should [be] against the afternoon.

I thence to the Coffee-house there, but little company; and so home to the Change, where I hear of some more of our ships lost to the Northward.¹ So to Sir W. Batten, but he was set out before I got thither; I sat long, talking with my Lady, and then home to dinner. Then came Mr. Moore to see me, and he and I to my Lord of Oxford's; but not finding him within, Mr. Moore and I to *Love in a tubb*; which is very merry, but only so by gesture, not wit at all, which methinks is beneath that house.²

So walked home, it being a very hard frost, and I find myself, as heretofore in cold weather, to begin to burn within and pimple and prick all over my body, my pores with cold being shut up.

So home to supper and to cards and to bed.

5. Up, it being very cold and a great snow and frost tonight.

To the office, and there all the morning. At noon dined at home, troubled at my wife's being simply* angry with Jane our cook-maid (a good servant, though perhaps hath faults and is cunning) and given her warning to be gone. So to the office again, where we sat late; and then I to my office and there very late doing business. Home to supper and to the office again; and then late home to bed.

6. Lay long in bed, but most of it angry and scolding with my wife about her warning Jane our cook-maid to be gone – and upon that, she desires to go abroad today to look a place. A very good maid she is and fully to my mind, being neat – only, they say a little apt to scold; but I hear her not.

To my office all the morning, busy. Dined at home. To my office again, being pretty well reconciled to my wife; which I did desire to be, because she had designed much mirth today to

1. Two ships were taken off Bridlington: *The Newes*, 5 January p. 16.

2. *The comical revenge, or Love in a tub*, a comedy by Sir George Etherege, first acted and published in 1664. Many critics rank it as the first Restoration comedy of manners, and, according to Downes (pp. 24-5), it was acted by the Duke of York's

Company at the LIF and 'got the Company more Reputation and Profit than any preceding Comedy' – a very different verdict from Pepys's. The cast listed by Downes includes Betterton as Lord Beaufort, Smith as Col. Bruce, Harris as Sir Frederick Frolic, Mrs Betterton as Graciana, and Mrs Davies as Aurelia. (A).

end Christmas with among her servants. At night home, being Twelfenight, and there chose my piece of cake,¹ but went up to my vial and then to bed, leaving my wife and people up at their sports, which they continue till morning, not coming to bed at all.

7. Up, and to the office all the morning. At noon dined alone, my wife and family most of them a-bed. Then to see my Lady Batten and sit with her a while, Sir W. Batten being out of town; and then to my office, doing very much business very late; then home to supper and to bed.

8. *Lords day.* Up betimes; and it being a very fine frosty day, I and my boy walked to White-hall and there to the chapel – where one Dr. Beaumont² preached a good sermon, and afterward a^a brave anthem upon the 150 Psalm; where upon the word “Trumpet”³ very good musique was made.

So walked to my Lady’s and there dined with her (my boy going home), where much pretty discourse; and after dinner walked to Westminster and there to the house where Jane Welch had appointed me; but it being sermon time, they would not let me in⁴ and said nobody was there to speak with me. I spent the whole afternoon walking into the church and abbey and up and down, but could not find her; and so in the evening took a coach and home – and there sat discoursing with my wife; and by and by at supper, drinking some cold drink I think it was, I was forced to go make water and had very great pain after it; but was well by and by and continued so, it being only, I think, from the drink or from my straining hard at stool to do more then my body would. So after^b prayers, to bed.

9. Up, and walked to White-hall, it being still a brave frost and I in perfect good health, blessed be God. In my way saw a

a MS. ‘and’ b repl. ‘in’

1. Cf. above, i. 10 & n. 3.

2. Joseph Beaumont, Chaplain to the King; Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, and Canon of Ely; later (1674) Regius Professor of Divinity. He was also a poet.

3. ‘Praise him with the sound of the trumpet’ (v. 3).

4. Alehouses were forbidden by law to open during the hours of church service.

woman that broke her thigh, in her heels slipping up upon the frosty street. To the Duke, and there we did our usual work. Here I saw the Royall Society^a bring their new book, wherein is nobly writ their Charter and laws, and comes to be signed by the Duke as a Fellow; and all the Fellows' hands are to be entered there and lie as a monument, and the King hath put his, with the word "Founder".¹

Thence I to Westminster to my barber's and found occasion to see Jane, but in presence of her mistress, and so could not speak to her of her failing me yesterday. And then to the Swan to Herberts girl, and lost time a little with her. And so took coach, and to my Lord Crews and dined with him; who receives me with the greatest respect that could be – telling me that he doth much doubt of the^b success of this war with Holland; we going about it, he doubts, by the instigation of persons that do not enough apprehend the consequences of the danger of it – and therein I do think with him.

Holmes was this day sent to the tower – but I perceive it is made matter of jest only. But if the Dutch should be our maisters, it may come to be of earnest to him, to be given over to them for a sacrifice, as Sir W. Rawly was.²

Thence to White-hall to a Tanger Committee; where I was accosted and most highly complimented by my Lord Bellases our new Governor, beyond my expectation or measure I could imagine^c he would have given any man, as if I were the only person of business that he intended to rely on, and desires my

^a l.h. repl. l.h. rendered illegible

^b repl. 'his'

^c repl. 'am'

1. On 5 October 1664 the Society had ordered the compilation 'of a book to be called the Charter book, wherein forthwith is to be fairly written a copy of the charter, the statutes, and the register of the fellows and benefactors of the Society'. It was produced at the meeting of 11 January 1665: Birch, i. 472; ii. 4. It contains copies of the second charter of 1663 (and also of the third charter of 1669); 76 pages of statutes; and signatures, the first of which, that of the King as founder,

is dated this day. Description in Sir H. Lyons, *Roy. Soc.*, pp. 53–4. The volume is still extant. A copy of the third charter and of the statutes of the Society is in PL 2831.

2. Holmes was imprisoned, and later held in custody, for his attack on Dutch W. Africa: see above, v. 283 & n. 1. He was released and pardoned in March, after the Dutch declaration of war. Raleigh had been executed in 1618 after attacking Spanish territory in S. America.

correspondence with him. This I was not only surprized at, but am well pleased with and may make good use of it. Our patent is renewed, and he and my Lord Barkely and Sir Tho. Ingram put in as commissioners.¹ Here some business happened which may bring me some profit.

Thence took coach; and calling my wife at her tailor's (she being come this afternoon to bring her mother some apples, neats tongues and brain) I home, and there at my office late with Sir W Warren and had a great deal of good discourse and counsel from him - which I hope I shall take, being all for my good in my department in^a my office, yet with all honesty.

He gone, I home to supper and to bed.

10. Lay long, it being still very cold, and then to the office, where till dinner, and then home; and by and by to the office, where we sat and were very late, and I writing letters till 12 at night; and then after supper, to bed.

11. Up, and very angry with my boy for lying long a-bed and forgetting his Lute. To my office all the morning. At noon to the Change, and so home to dinner. After dinner to Gresham College to my Lord Bruncker and Comissioner Pett, taking Mr. Castle with me, there to discourse over his draught of a ship he is to build for us² - where I first find reason to apprehend Comissioner Pett to be a man of any ability extraordinary in anything, for I found he did turn and wind Castle like a chicken in his business, and that most pertinently and master-like.³ And

a repl. 'and every'

1. Belaysse was appointed Governor on 4 January. The commissioners' patent of 1662 (q.v. above, iii. 238 & n. 3) was now redrafted but not sealed until the following summer: PRO, SP 44/22, p. 217 (original and enrolment not traced). Berkeley of Stratton, one of the Commissioners of the Ordnance and Steward of the Duke of York's Household, had until recently been a Navy Commissioner. Ingram was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Both were Privy Councillors

and members of the Council of Trade.

2. The *Defiance*, a 3rd-rate, completed in the spring of the next year. This ship, together with several others built at this time, was copied from French and Dutch models, and was designed to carry the guns on the lower tier higher above the water than was usual.

3. Pett later condemned the *Defiance* 'for Baddness of Timber, Badness of Scantlings . . .': NWB, p. 107 (31 January 1667).

great pleasure it was to me to hear them discourse, I of late having studied something thereon, and my Lord Bruncker is a very able person also himself in this sort of business, as owning himself to be a master in the business of all lines and Conicall Sections.¹ Thence home, where very late at my office, doing business to my content; though [God] knows with what a do it was that when I was out I could get myself to come home to my business, or when I was there, though late, could stay there from going abroad again. To supper and to bed.

This evening, by a letter from Plymouth,² I hear that two of our ships, the *Leopard*, and another in the Streights, are lost by running aground, and that three more had like to have been so, but got off; whereof Captain Allen one – and that a Duch fleet are gone thither; which if they should meet with our lame ships, God knows what would become of them.³ This I reckon most sad news; God make us sensible of it. <This night when I came home, I was much troubled to hear my poor Canary-bird that I have kept these three or four years is dead.>^a

12. Up, and to White-hall about getting a privy-seal for felling of the King's timber for the Navy, and to the Lords' House to speak with my Lord Privy Seal about it; and so to the Change – where to my last night's ill newes, I met more. Spoke with a Frenchman who was taken, but released, by a Duch man-of-war of 36 guns (with seven more of the like or greater ships) off of the North Foreland, by Margett⁴ – which is a strange attempt, that they should come to^b our teeths. But the wind being

^a addition crowded in between entries

^b repl. 'on'

1. Brouncker (first President of the Royal Society) was a considerable mathematician. Some of his papers on the problems here referred to are in *Philos. Trans.*, iii (for 1668), pp. 645+; viii (for 1673), p. 6149.

2. John Lanyon to Pepys, 8 January: NMM, LBK/8, p. 147 (copy in Hewer's hand; printed *Further Corr.*, pp. 34-5).

3. The ships sunk were in fact the

Phoenix and *Nonsuch*: see below, p. 10 & n. 1. Four ships in all were stranded near Gibraltar on the night of 1-2 December through an error in navigation. They thought they were well over to the African coast. See Allin, i. 184-5, 218-24.

4. Pepys wrote to Sandwich this day to warn him about these ships: *Further Corr.*, pp. 35-6.

Easterly,¹ the wind that should bring our force from Portsmouth will carry them away home. God preserve us against them, and pardon our making them in our discourse so contemptible an enemy. So home and to dinner, where Mr. Hollyard with us dined.

So to the office and there late, till 11 at night and more, and then home to supper and to bed.

13. Up betimes, and walked to my Lord Bellasses lodging in Lincolns Inn fields, and there he received and discoursed with me in the most respectful manner that could be – telling me what a character of my judgment and care and love to Tanger he had received of me, that he desired my advice and my constant correspondence, which he much valued, and in my Courtship – in which, though I understand his design very well, and that it is only a piece of Courtship, yet it is a comfort to me that I am become so considerable as to have him need to say that to me; which if I did not do something in the world, would never have been. Here well satisfied, I to Sir Ph. Warwicke and there did some business with him. Thence to Jervas's and there spent a little idle time with him, his wife, Jane, and a sweetheart of hers. So to the Hall awhile and thence to the Exchange, where yesterday's news confirmed, though in a little different manner. But a couple of ships in the Straights we have lost, and the Duch have been in Margaret road. Thence home to dinner, and so abroad and alone to the King's house to a play, *The Traytor*,² where unfortunately I met with Sir W. Penn, so that I must be forced to confess it to my wife, which troubles me. Thence walked home, being ill-satisfied with the present actings of that house, and prefer the other house³ before this infinitely.

To my Lady Batten's, where I find Pegg Pen, the first time that ever I saw her to wear spots.⁴ Here very merry, Sir W. Batten being looked for tonight, but is not come from Harwich. So home to supper and to bed.

1. *Recte*, westerly.

2. A tragedy by James Shirley: see above, i. 300 & n. 1. (A).

3. The LIF used by the Duke's company under Davenant's management. The better discipline of the

Duke's Company and Pepys's great admiration for its leading actor, Betterton, help to explain his preference for its acting. (A).

4. For patches, see above, i. 234 & n. 3. Peg Penn was now 13.

14. Up, and to White Hall, where long waited in the Dukes chamber for a committee intended for Tanger; but none met, and so I home and to the office, where we met a little; and then to the Change, where our late ill news confirmed, in loss of two ships in the Straights; but are now the *Phœnix* and *Nonsuch*.^{a1} Home to dinner, and thence with my wife to the King's house, there to see *Vulpone*,² a most excellent play – the best I think I ever saw, and well acted. So with Sir W. Penn home in his coach, and then to the office; so home [to] supper and bed – resolving, by the grace of God, from this day to fall hard to my business again, after some, a week or fortnight's, neglect.

15. *Lords day*. Up; and after a little at my office to prepare a fresh draft of my vows for the next year, I to church, where a most insipid young coxcomb preached. Then home to dinner; and after dinner to read in Rusworths *Collections* about the charge against the late Duke of Buckingham,³ in order to the fitting me to speak and understand the discourse anon before the King, about the suffering the Turkey merchants to send out their fleet at this dangerous time, when we can neither spare them ships to go, nor men nor King's ships to convoy them.⁴

At 4 a-clock with Sir W. Penn in his coach to my Lord Chancellors, where by and by Mr. Coventry, Sir W. Penn, Sir J Lawson, Sir G Ascue, and myself were called in to the King,

a rest of entry crowded into bottom of page

1. Cf. Pepys to Sandwich, 14 January: 'I have this day seen a letter from a master of a vessel lately come to Plymouth from Malaga, who in his way stopped at Gibraltar, where he found Captain Allen and 2 ships more safely got off, but the *Phoenix* and *Nonsuch* lost, all striking upon the great rock (as the letter says) that stands as you go into Gibraltar' (*Further Corr.*, pp. 36-7). Cf. above, p. 8, n. 2.

2. *Volpone, or The Fox*, a comedy by Jonson, acted in 1606 and published in 1608. The cast listed by

Downes (p. 4) includes Mohun as *Volpone*. (A).

3. The reference is probably to the charge made in the impeachment of the 1st Duke of Buckingham (May 1628) that he had neglected the guard of the seas: John Rushworth, *Hist. Collections* (1659-1701), i. 307+, esp. pp. 312 and 385.

4. The Levant Company's negotiations with the King for a convoy are summarised in HMC, *Finch*, p. 363. An escort of six ships was granted in early February.

there being several of the Privy Council, and my Lord Chancellor lying at length upon a couch (of the goute I suppose); and there Sir W. Penn begun, and he had prepared heads in a paper and spoke pretty well to purpose, but with so much leisure and gravity as was tiresome – besides, the things he said was but very poor to a man in his trade after a great consideration. But it was to purpose endeed, to dissuade the King from letting^a these Turkey ships to go out – saying (in short), the King having resolved to have 130 ships out by the spring, he must have above 20 of them merchantmen – towards which, he in the whole river could find but 12 or 14; and of them, the five ships taken up by these merchants were a part, and so could not be spared. That we should need 30000 to man these 130 ships; and of them in service we have not above 16000, so we shall need 14000 more. That these ships will with their convoys carry above 2000 men, and those the best men that could be got, it being the men used to the southward that are the best men for war, though those bred in the north among the Colliers are good for labour. That^b it will not be safe for the merchants, nor honourable for the King, to expose these rich ships with his convoy of six ships to go, it not being enough to secure them against the Dutch, who without doubt will have a great fleet in the Straights. This, Sir J Lawson enlarged upon. Sir G Ascu, he chiefly spoke that the warr and trade could not be supported together – and therefore, that trade must stand still to give way to that.

This Mr. Coventry seconded, and showed how the medium of the men the King hath, one year with another, imployed in his Navy since his coming, hath not been above 3000 men, or at most 4000 men; and now having occasion of 30000, the remaining 26000 must be found out of the trade of the nation.

He showed how the Cloaths sending by these merchants to Turkey are already bought and paid for to the workmen, and are as many as they would send these twelve months or more; so the poor do not suffer by their not going, but only the merchant, upon whose hands they lie dead – and so the inconvenience is the less. And yet for them he propounded: either the King should, if his Treasure would suffer it, buy them, and showed the loss would not be so great to him – or dispense with the act of

^a repl. 'sending'

^b MS. 'That that'

Navigacion, and let them be carried out by strangers;¹ and ending, that he doubted not but when the merchants saw there was no remedy, they would and could find ways of sending them abroad to their profit.

All ended with a conviction (unless future discourse with the merchants should alter it) that it was not fit for them to go out, though the ships be loaded.

The King in discourse did ask me two or three Questions about my news of Allen's loss in the Straights; but I said nothing as to the business, nor am not much sorry for it, unless the King had spoke to me as he did to them, and then I could have said something to the purpose I think. So we withdrew, and the merchants were called in.

Staying without, my Lord Fitzharding came thither and fell to discourse of Prince Rupert, and made nothing to say that his disease was the pox² and that he must be Fluxed, telling the horrible degree of the disease upon him, with its breaking out on his head. But above all, I observed how he observed from the Prince that Courage is not what men take it to be, a contempt of death; "For," says he, "how Chagrin the Prince was the other day when he thought he should die – having no more mind to it then another man; but," says he, "some men are more apt to think they shall escape then another man in fight, while another is doubtful he shall be hit. But when the first man is sure he shall die, as now the Prince is, he is as much troubled and apprehensive of it as any man else. For," says he, "sence we told him that we believe he would overcome his disease, he is as merry, and swears and laughs and curses and doth all the things of a [man] in health, as ever he did in his life" – which methought was a most extraordinary saying, before a great many persons

1. The Navigation Act of 1660 forbade the use of foreign ships in these circumstances, but could be evaded by the exercise of the royal prerogative of dispensation or suspension.

2. This was the diagnosis favoured by Rupert's enemies. Denham in his *Directions to a painter* (1667) wrote of it as caused by some 'treach'rous Jael'. But Rupert was suffering from

an old war wound received in Flanders and recently aggravated by the fall of a block on board ship in November 1664, for which he underwent three operations in 1664-7: *CSPD* 1664-5, p. 56; *CSPVen.* 1664-6, p. 63, n.; E. Warburton, *Mem. Rupert* (1849), iii. 486-7. He now recovered in time to take part in the spring campaign.

there of quality. So by and by with Sir W. Penn home again; and after supper to the office to finish my vows, and so to bed.

16. Up, and with Sir W. Batten and Sir W. Penn to Whitehall, where we did our business with the Duke. Thence I to Westminster hall and walked up and down. Among others, Ned Pickering met me and tells me how active my Lord is at sea¹ – and that my Lord Hinchingbrooke is now at Rome,² and by all reports a very noble and hopeful gentleman.

Thence to Mr. Povy's and there met Creed and dined well, after his old^a manner of plenty and curiosity. But I sat in pain, to think whether he would begin with me again after dinner with his enquiry after my bill;³ but he did not, but fell into other discourse, at which I was glad. But was vexed this morning, meeting of Creed, at some bye-questions that he demanded of me about some such thing; which made me fear he meant that very matter – but I perceive he did not.

Thence to visit my Lady Sandwich; and so to a Tanager Committee, where a great company of the new Comissioners, Lords, that in behalf of my Lord Bellasses are very loud and busy, and call for Povy's accounts; but it was a most sorrowful thing to see how he answered to Questions so little to the purpose, but^b to his own wrong. All the while, I sensible how I am concerned in my bill of 100*l* and somewhat more; so great a trouble is fear, though in a case that at the worst will bear enquiry.^c

My Lord Berkely were very violent against Povy. But my Lord Ashly, I observe, is a most clear man in matters of accounts, and most ingeniously did discourse and explain all matters. We broke up, leaving the thing to a committee, of which I am one. Povy, Creed, and I stayed discoursing, I much troubled in mind seemingly for that business; but indeed, only on my own behalf, though I have no great reason for it, but so painful a thing is fear.

So after considering how to order business, Povy and I walked together as far as the New Exchange, and so parted and I by coach home. To the office a while; then to supper and to bed.

This afternoon Secretary Bennet read to the Duke of Yorke

a repl. 'own' b repl. 'to' c repl. 'some'

1. On winter guard in St Helens Road. Pickering had left him on the 3rd: Sandwich, p. 161.

2. See above, ii. 142, n. 3.

3. See above, v. 340 & n. 2.

his letters, which say that Allen hath met with the Duch Smyrna fleet at Cales, and sunk one and taken three.¹ How true, or what these ships are, time will show; but it is good news – and the news of our ships being lost is doubted at Cales and Malaga. God send it false.

17. Up, and walked to Mr. Povy's by appointment, where I found him and Creed busy about fitting things for the committee; and thence we to my Lord Ashly's, where, to see how simply, beyond all patience, Povey did again, by his many words and no understanding, confound himself and his business to his disgrace and rendering everybody doubtful of his being either a fool or a knave – is very wonderful. We broke up, all dissatisfied, and referred the business to a meeting of Mr. Sherwin and others to settle. But here it was mighty strange methought, to find myself to sit here in committee with my hat on, while Mr. Sherwin stood bare as a clerk, with his hat off to his Lord Ashly and the rest.² But I thank God, I think myself never a whit the better man for all that.

Thence with Creed to the Change and Coffee-house – and so home, where a brave dinner, by having a brace of pheasants, and very merry about Povy's folly.

So anon to the office, and there sitting very late; and then after a little time at Sir W. Batten's, where I am mighty great, and could, if I thought it fit, continue so, I to my office again and there very late; and so home to the sorting of some of my books, and so to bed – the weather becoming pretty warm, and I think and hope the frost will break.

18. Up, and by and by to my bookseller's and there did give thorough direction for the new binding of a great many of my old books, to make my whole study of the same binding, within

1. On 19 December Allin had made an unprovoked attack on the Dutch merchantmen off Cadiz ('Cales'), and had taken two and sunk two: Allin, i. 191-3; *CSPD 1664-5*, p. 122; below, p. 19 & n. 2. This was the immediate cause of the war which followed.

2. Richard Sherwin had been an M.P. and a senior official of the Exchequer when Pepys had been a young clerk there. He was now secretary to Ashley.