

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 ended, to dissuade the King from letting 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 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. 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. Staying without, my Lord Fitzharding came thither and fell to discourse of Prince Rupert, and made nothing to say that his disease was the pox 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