

16-17. Up, and fitted myself for my Journy down to the Fleete; and sending my money and boy down by water to Eriffe, I borrowed a horse of Mr. Boreman's son, and after having sat an hour laughing with my Lady Batten and Mrs. Turner and eat and drank with them, I took horse and rode to Eriffe; where after making a little visit to Madam Williams, who did give me information of W. Hows having bought eight bags of precious stones, taken from about the Dutch Viceadmirall's neck, of which there were eight Dyamonds, which cost him 4000*l* sterling in India and hoped to have made 12000*l* here for them – and that this is told by one that sold him one of the bags, which hath nothing but rubys in it, which he hath for 35*s*. – and that it will be proved he hath made 125*l* of one stone that he bought. This she desired, and I resolved, I would give my Lord Sandwich notice of. So I on board my Lord Bruncker, and there he and Sir Edmd. Pooly carried me down into the Hold of the India Shipp, and there did show me the greatest wealth lie in confusion that a man can see in the world – pepper scatter[ed] through every chink, you trod upon it; and in cloves and nutmegs, I walked above the knees – whole rooms full – and silk in bales, and boxes of Copperplate, one of which I saw opened. Having seen this, which was as noble a sight as ever I saw in my life, I away on board the other ship in despair, to get the pleasure-boat of the gentlemen there to carry me to the fleet. They came, Mr. Ashburnham and Coll. Wyndham – but pleading the King's business, they did presently agree I should have it. So I presently on board and got under sail, and had a good bedd by the shift of Wyndhams; and so sailed all night and got down to Quinbrough water, where all the great ships are now come; and there on board my Lord, and was soon received with great content. And after some little discourse, he and I on board Sir W. Pen and there held a council of Warr about many wants of the fleet, but chiefly how to get Slopps and victuals for the fleet now going out to convoy our Hambrough Ships, that have been so long detained, for four or five months, for want of Convoy; which we did accomodate one way or other, and so after much chatt, Sir W. Penn did give us a very good and neat dinner, neater I think then ever I did see at his own house at home in my life, and so was the other I eat with him. After dinner, much talk; and among other things, he and I about his money for his prize goods, wherein I did give him a cool answer but so as we did not disagree in words much; and so let that fall, and so fallowed my Lord Sandwich, who was gone a little before me on