

31. Up and by coach, with W. Griffin with me and our contract-books, to Durham Yard to the Commissioners for Accounts – the first time I ever was there; and staying a while before I was admitted to them, I did observe a great many people attending about complaints of seamen concerning tickets; and among others, Mr. Carcasse and Mr. Martin my purser. And I observe a fellow, one Collins, is there, who is employed by these Commissioners particularly to hold an office in Bishopsgate street, or somewhere thereabouts, to receive complaints of all people about tickets – and I believe he will have work enough. Presently I was called in, where I found the whole number of Commissioners, and was there received with great respect and kindness and did give them great satisfaction, making it my endeavour to inform them what it was they were to expect from me and what was the duty of other people, this being my only way to preserve myself after all my pains and trouble. They did ask many questions and demand other books of me; which I did give them very ready and acceptable answers to; and upon the whole, I observe they do go about their business like men resolved to go through with it, and in a very good method, like men of understanding. They have Mr. Jessop their secretary; and it is pretty to see that they are fain to find out an old-fashion man of Cromwell's to do their business for them, as well as the Parliament to pitch upon such for the most part in the list of people that were brought into the House for Commissioners. I went away with giving and receiving great satisfaction; and so away to Whitehall to the Commissioners of Treasury – where waiting some time, I met there with Coll. Birch and he and I fell into discourse, and I did give him thanks for his kindness to me in the Parliament-house, both before my face and behind my back; he told me he knew me to be a man of the old way for taking pains, and did always endeavour to do me right and prevent anything that was moved that might tend to my injury – which I was obliged to him for, and thanked him. Thence to talk of other things and the want of money and he told me of the general want of money in the country; that land sold for nothing, and the many pennyworths he knew of lands and houses upon them with good titles in his country, at 16 years' purchase. "And," says he, "though I am in debt, yet I have a mind to one, and that is a Bishop's lease;" "But," said I, "will you choose such a lease before any other?" – "Yes," says he plainly, "because I know they cannot stand, and then it will fall into the King's hands, and I in possession shall have an advantage by it – and," says he, "I know