

to show myself after my journey to Chatham, but did no business today with him. Only, after gone from him, I to Sir T. Clifford's and there, after an hour's waiting, he being alone in his closet, I did speak with him and fell to talk of the business of the Navy; and giving me good words, did fall foule of the constitution, and did then discover his thoughts that Sir J. Mennes was too old, and so was Coll. Middleton, and that my Lord Brouncker did mind his mathematics too much. I did not give much encouragement to that of finding fault with my fellow-officers, but did stand up for the constitution, and did say that what faults there was in our office would be found not to arise from the constitution, but from the failures of the officers in whose hands it was. This he did seem to give good ear to. But did give me of myself very good words; which pleased me well, though I shall not build upon them anything.

31. Up and by water to W. Coventry, there to talk with him about business of the Navy, and received from him direction what to advise the Duke of York at this time; which was, to submit and give way to the King's naming a man or two that the people about him have a mind should be brought into the Navy, and perhaps that may stop their fury in running further against the whole – and this he believes will do it. After much discourse with him, I walked out with him into St. James's park; where being afeared to be seen with him (he having not leave yet to kiss the King's hand, but notice taken, as I hear, of all that go to him) I did take the pretence of my attending [the] Tanger Committee to take my leave; though to serve him, I should I think stick at nothing. At the Committee this morning, my Lord Middleton declares at last his being ready to go as soon as ever money can be made ready to pay the garrison. And so I have orders to get money, but how soon I know not. Thence home and there find Mr. Sheres, for whom I find my moher of late to talk with mighty kindness; and perticularly, he hath shown himself to be a poet, and that she doth mightily value him for. He did not stay to dine with us; but we to dinner, and then in the afternoon, my wife being very well dressed by her new maid, we abroad to make a visit to Mrs. Pickering; but she abroad again, and so we never yet saw her. Thence to Dancrē's and there saw our pictures which are in doing, and I did choose a view of Rome instead of Hampton Court – and mightily pleased I shall be in them. Here was Sir Ch. Cotterell and his son, bespeaking something;