

that the Duke, if he desires it, is most willing to it; but thinking that twelve ships is not a fleet fit for my Lord to be troubled to go out with, he is not willing to offer it him till he hath some intimations of his mind to go or not. He spoke this with very great respect as to my Lord, though methinks it is strange they should not understand one another better at this time than to need another's mediacion. Thence walked over the park to Whitehall, Mr. Povy with me, and was taken in a very great showre in the middle of the park, that we were very wet. So up into the House and with him to the King's closet, whither by and by the King came, my Lord Sandwich carrying the sword. A Bishop preached; but he speaking too low for me to hear behind the King's closet, I went forth and walked and discoursed with Coll. Reames, who seems a very willing man to be informed in his business of Canvas, which he is undertaking to strike in with us to serve the Navy. By and by my Lord Sandwich came forth and called me to him; and we fell into discourse a great while about his business, wherein he seems to be very open with me and to receive my opinion as he used to do; and I hope I shall become necessary to him again. He desired me to think of the fitness or not for him to offer himself to go to sea, and to give him my thoughts in a day or two. Thence, after sermon, among the ladies on the Queenes side; where I saw Mrs. Stuart, very fine and pretty but far beneath my Lady Castlemaine. Thence with Mr. Povy home to dinner, where extraordinary cheer. And after dinner, up and down to see his house. And in a word, methinks for his perspective upon his wall in his garden and the springs rising up – with the perspective in the little closet – his room floored above with woods of several colours, like, but above the best Cabinet work I ever saw – his grotto and vault, with his bottles of wine and a well therein to keep them cool – his furniture of all sorts – his bath at the top of his house – good pictures and his manner of eating and drinking, doth surpass all that ever I did see of one man in all my life.

31. Up, and called upon Mr. Hollyard, with whom I advised and shall fall upon some course of doing something for my disease of the wind, which grows upon me every day more and more. Thence to my Lord Sandwiches; and while he was dressing, I below discoursed with Capt. Cooke and I think, if I do find it fit to keep a boy at all, I had as good be supplied from him with one as anybody. By and by up to my Lord – and to discourse about his going to sea