

19. By coach to Mr. Povys, being invited thither by a messenger this morning from him – where really, he made a most excellent and large dinner, even to admiration; he bidding us in a frolique to call for what we had a mind and he would undertake to give it us – and we did, for prawns – Swan – venison after I had thought the dinner was quite done, and he did immediately produce it, which I thought great plenty. And he seems to set off his rest in this plenty and the neatness of his house; which he after dinner showed me from room to room, so beset with delicate pictures, and above all, a piece of per[s]pective in his closet in the low parler. His stable, where was some most delicate horses, and the very racks painted, and mangers, with a neat leaden painted cistern and the walls done with Dutch tiles like my chimnies. But still, above all things, he bid me go down into his wine-cellar, where upon several shelves there stood bottles of all sorts of wine, new and old, with labells pasted upon each bottle, and in that order and plenty as I never saw books in a bookseller's shop. And herein, I observe, he puts his highest content and will accordingly commend all that he hath, but still they deserve to be so.

24. By coach to Mr. Povys, where Sir W. Compton, Mr. Bland, Gawden, Sir J. Lawson and myself met to settle the victualling of Tanger for the time past (which with much ado we did) and for a six month supply more.

27. Up and to the office, where sat till 2 a-clock; and then home to dinner, whither by and by comes in Creede and he and I talked of our Tanger business and do find that there is nothing in the world done with true integrity but there is design along with it; as in my Lord Rutherford, who designs to have the profit of victualling of the garrison himself, and others to have the benefit of making the molle. So that I am almost discouraged from coming any more to the Committee, were it not that it will possibly hereafter bring me to some acquaintance of the great men. Then to the office again, where very busy till past 10 at night; and so home to supper and bed.

28. Up, and all the morning at my office doing business – and at home seeing my painters' work measured. So to dinner and abroad with my wife, carrying her to Unthakes, where she lights and I to my Lord Sandwiches, whom I find missing his ague fit today and is