

which is simple methinks.¹ Back again by water, calling at Capt. Lamberts house, which is very handsome and neat, and a fine prospect at top. So to the office, where we sat a little. And then the Captain and I again to Bridewell, to Mr. Holland; where his wife also (a plain dowdy) and his mother was. Here came two young gentlewomen to see Mrs. Holland and one of them could play pretty well upon the viallin; but good God, how these ignorant people did cry her up for it. We were very merry. I stayed and supped here; and so home and to bed. The weather very hot; this night I left off my wastecoate.

10. Early to my Lord – who privately told me how the King hath made him ambassador in the bringing over the Queen.² That he is to go to Algier &c. to settle that business and to put the fleet in order there; and so to come back to Lisbone with three ships, and there to meet the fleet that is to fallow him. He sent for me to tell me that he doth intrust me with the seeing of all things done in his absence as to this great preparation, as I shall receive orders from my Lord Chancellor and Mr. Edw. Mountagu. At all which, my heart is above measure glad – for my Lord's honour, and some profit to myself I hope. I stayed and dined with my Lady; but after we were sat, comes in some persons of condition; and so the children and I rise and dined by ourselves, all the children and I, and were very merry – and they mighty fond of me. Then I to the office, and there sat a while. So home; and at night to bed – where we lay in Sir R. Slingsby's lodgings – in the dining-room there, in our green bed – my house being now in its last work of painting and whiting.

11. At the office this morning, Sir G. Carteret with us. And we agreed upon a letter to the Duke of Yorke, to tell him the sad condition of this office for want of money. How men are not able to serve us more without some money. And that now, the credit of the office is brought so low, that none will sell us anything without our personal security given for the same. All the afternoon abroad about several businesses; and at night home and to bed.

13. I went up and down to Ald. Backwells, but his servants not

1. This was an automaton attached to a mechanical organ.

2. Charles's betrothal to the Infanta Catherine had been announced to Parliament on 8 May.