

of the Navy (who served in their goods before the last session of Parliament) paid out of the Eleven Months Tax, which seems to relate only for goods to be then served in – and I think I have found out a way to bring them into the act; which if it doth, I shall think a good service done.

9. To St. James's and there found Sir W. Coventry alone in his chamber, and sat and talked with him more then I have done a great while, of several things – of the Navy, how our debts and wants do unfit us for doing anything. He tells me he hears stories of Commissioner Pett of selling Timber to the Navy under other names; which I told him I believe is true, and did give him an instance. He told me also how his clerk Floyd he hath put away for his common idlenesse and ill company; and perticularly, that yesterday he was found not able to come to attend him, by being run into the arme in a squable, though he pretends it was done in the street by strangers, at 9 at night by the Maypole in the Strand. Sir W. Coventry did write to me this morning to recommend him another; which I could find my heart to do W. Hewers for his good, but do believe he will not part with me, nor have I any mind to let him go. I would my brother were fit for it; I would adventure him there. He insists upon an unmarried man – that can write well – and hath French enough to transcribe it only from a copy, and may write shorthand if it may be. Thence with him to my Lord Chancellors at Clarendon house to a Committee for Tanger, where several things spoke of and proceeded on; and perticularly sending Commissioners<sup>1</sup> thither before the new Governor goes, which I think will signify as much good as everything else that hath been done about the place; which is, none at all. Mightily pleased with the nobleness of this house and the brave furniture and pictures, which ended is very noble. And being broke up, I with Sir G. Carteret in his coach into Hyde park to discourse of things, and spent an hour in this manner with great pleasure; telling me all his concernments, and how he is gone through with the purchase for my Lady Jemimah and her husband. How the Treasury is like to come into the hands of a committee; but that not that, nor anything else, will do our business, unless the King himself will mind his business; and how his servants do execute their parts. He doth fear an utter ruin in the state, and that in a little time, if the King do not

1. To reorganise the garrison.