

myself ready, and so with him by coach to my Lord Sandwiches by appointment – to deliver Mr. How's accounts to my Lord. Which done, my Lord did give me hearty and large studied thanks for all my kindnesses to him and care of him and his business. I, after profession of all duty to his Lordship, took occasion to bemoan myself that I should fall into such a difficulty about Sir G. Carteret, as not to be for him but I must be against Sir W. Coventry, and therefore desired to be neutrall – which my Lord approved and confessed reasonable, but desired me to befriend him privately. Having done in private with my Lord, I brought Mr. Hill to kiss his hands, to whom my Lord professed great respects upon my score. My Lord being gone, I took Mr. Hill to my Lord Chancellors new house that is building, and went with trouble up to the top of it and there is there the noblest prospect that ever I saw in my life, Greenwich being nothing to it. And in everything is a beautiful house – and most strongly built in every respect – and as if, as it hath, it had the Chancellor for its maister. Thence with him to his painter, Mr. Hales, who is drawing his picture – which will be mighty like him, and pleased me, so that I am resolved presently to have my wife's and mine done by him, he having a very maisterly hand. So with mighty satisfaction to the Change, and thence home; and after dinner abroad, taking Mrs. Mary Batelier with us, who was just come to see my wife; and they set me down at my Lord Treasurer's, and themselves went with the coach into the fields to take the ayre. I stayed a meeting of the Duke of Yorkes and the officers of the Navy and Ordinance – my Lord Treasurer lying in bed of the gowte. Our business was discourse of the straits of the Navy for want of money; but after long discourse, as much out of order as ordinary people's, we came to no issue, nor any money promised or like to be had, and yet the work must be done. Here I perceive Sir G. Carteret had prepared himself to answer a Choque of Sir W. Coventry, by offering of himself to show all he had paid, and what is unpaid and what moneys and assignments he hath in his hands – which, if he makes good, was the best thing he ever did say in his life – and the best timed, for else it must have fallen very foul on him.

15. Up, and my wife not come home all night. To the office, where sat all the morning. At noon to Starkys, a great cook's in Austin Fryers, invited by Coll. Atkins, and a good dinner for Coll. Norwood and his friends; among others, Sir Edw. Spragg and