

17. Up and to the office, where all the morning. At noon home to dinner, and there find Mr. Pierce the surgeon, and he dined with us; and there hearing that *The Alchymist* was acted, we did go and took him with us, at the King's House; and is still a good play, it having not been acted for two or three years before; but I do miss Clun for the Doctor – but more, my eyes will not let me enjoy the pleasure I used to have in a play. Thence with my wife in hackney to Sir W. Coventry's; who being gone to the park, we drove after him; and there met him coming out and fallowed him home, and there sent my wife to Unthankes while I spent an hour with him, reading over first my draft of the Administracion of the Navy, which he doth like very well. And so fell to talk of other things; and among the rest, of the story of his late disgrace, and how basely and in a mean manner the Duke of Buckingham hath proceeded against him, not like a man of honour. He tells me that the King will not give other answer about his coming to kiss his hands then “not yett”. But he says that this that he desires, of kissing the King's hand, is only to show to the world that he is not a discontent, and not in any desire to come again into play; though I do perceive that he speaks this with less earnestness then heretofore; and this, it may [be], is from what he told me lately, that the King is offended at what is talked: that he hath declared himself desirous not to have to do with any imployment more. But he doth tell me that the leisure he hath yet had doth not at all begin to be burdensome to him, he knowing how to spend his time with content to him; and that he hopes shortly to contract his expense, so as that he shall not be under any straits in that respect neither – and so seems to be in very good condition of content. Thence I away over the park, it being now night, to Whitehall, and there in the Duchess's chamber to find the Duke of York; and upon my offer to speak with him, he did come to me; and withdrew to his closet and there did hear and approve my paper of the Administration of the Navy; only, did bid me alter these words, “upon the rupture between the late King and the Parliament,” to these, “the beginning of the late Rebellion;” giving it me as but reason to show that it was with the Rebellion that the Navy was put by out of its old good course into that of a Commission.

18. *Lords day.* Up, and all morning till 2 a-clock at my office with Gibson and Tom, about drawing up fair my discourse of the Administracion of the Navy. And then Mr. Spong being come to dine with me, I in to dinner and then out to my office again to