

confirmed by the Duke of York, though I perceive nothing will effectually perfect them but to look over the whole body of the instructions of all the officers of a ship, and make them all perfect together. This being done, comes my bookseller and brings me home, bound, my collection of papers about my Adresse to the Duke of York in August; which makes me glad, it being that which shall do me more right many years hence then perhaps all I ever did in my life – and therefore I do, both for my own and the King's sake, value it much. By and by also comes Browne the Mathematical-instrument maker, and brings me home my instrument for Perspective, made according to the description of Dr. Wren's in the late *Transactions*, and he hath made it, I think, very well; and that that I believe will do the thing, and therein give me great content, but that I fear all the contents that must be received by my eyes are almost lost. So to the office and there late at business, and then home to supper and to bed.

10. Troubled, about 3 in the morning, with my wife's calling her maid up, and rising herself, to go with her coach abroad to gather May-dew<sup>1</sup> – which she did; and I troubled for it, for fear of any hurt, going abroad so betimes, happening to her. But I to sleep again, and she came home about 6 and to bed again, all well. And I up, and with Mr. Gibson by coach to St. James and thence to Whitehall, where the Duke of York met the office and there discoursed of several things, particularly the instructions to commanders of ships. Thence walked, my boy Jacke with me, to my Lord Crew, whom I have not seen since he was sick, which is eight months ago I think – and there dined with him. He is mightily broke. A stranger, a country gentleman, was with him, and he pleased with my discourse accidentally about the decay of gentlemen's families in the country, telling us that the old rule was that a family might remain 50 miles from London 100 year, 100 mile off from London 200 years, and so, farther or nearer London, more or less years. He also told us that he hath heard his father say that in his time it was so rare for a country gentleman to come to London, that when he did come, he used to make his will before he set out. Thence walked a little with Creed, who tells me he hears how fine my horses and coach are, and advises me to avoid being noted for it; which I was vexed to hear taken notice of, it being what I feared;

1. Used as a cosmetic.