

and the message I had from Mr. Coventry to him. He wonders, as he well may, that this course should be taken, and he every day with the Duke (who nevertheless seems most friendly to him), who hath not yet spoke one word to my Lord of his desire to have him go to sea. My Lord doth tell me clearly that were it not that he, as all other men that were of the parliaments side, are obnoxious to reproach, and so is forced to bear what otherwise he would not, he would never suffer everything to be done in the Navy and he never be consulted; and it seems, in the naming of all these commanders for this fleet, he hath never been asked one Question. But we concluded it wholly inconsistent with his Honour not to go [with] this fleet, nor with the reputation which the world hath of his interest at Court; and so he did give me commission to tell Mr. Coventry that he is most willing to receive any commands from the Duke in this fleet, were it less then it is, and that perticularly in this service. With this message I parted; and by coach to the office, where I found Mr. Coventry and told him this. Dined at home; and so to the office, where a great while alone in my office, nobody near, with Bagwell's wife of Deptford; but the woman seems so modest that I durst not offer any courtship to her, though I had it in my mind when I brought her in to me. But am resolved to do her husband a courtesy, for I think he is a man that deserves very well. I was told today that upon Sunday night last, being the King's birthday – the King was at my Lady Castlemaine's lodgings (over the hither-gate at Lambert's lodgings) dancing with fiddlers all night almost, and all the world coming by taking notice of it – which I am sorry to hear.

The discourse of the town is only whether a war with Holland or no. And we are preparing for it all we can, which is but little. Myself subject more then ordinary to pain by winde, which makes me very sad – together with the trouble which at present lies upon me in my father's behalf, rising from the death of my brother – which are many and great. Would to God they were over.

✧ JUNE ✧

1. Up, having lain long, going to bed very late after the ending my accounts. Being up, Mr. Hollyard came to me; and to my great sorrow, after his great assuring me that I could not possibly have