

No 15 S^o

I Received by m^r. de Witts a letter & a couple
of Epigrams wherein y^e have praised me & my book
more then of Will, or merit, of either deserv; which
expresseth y^e overflowing generosity, that choiceth
rather ^{to give} to much praise than to little.
As for y^e request concerning my Opinion, of y^e glasses,
y^e have done me y^e favor to sende me; I know not
Civilly how to deny it, nor prudently to graunt it,
nor readily to give it; for it were a presumption
to give my Opinion, after these famous and Learned
physiologists, as those which are in France; whose
Coynce Nature have soe tempered and furnished
with such Conceptions reasons, Judgements, & Wit,
to find out the truths both of obscure Nature and
Subtile Arts; that I may rather wonder wth ignorant
then give my Opinion wth the Learned. But to my
Outward sense these glasses doe Appear to have in y^e
head ^{body} ~~solid~~ & only substance, which may be the
only spirits or Essences; of Sulphur, also: the glasses doe
Appear to my sense; like y^e nature or Arte of guns
and the spirit of Sulphur, as the powder; whose
All though they are charged: yett untill they be
discharged: give no vapour or sound; the discharging
of these glasses is by y^e breaking of a piece or part, or
end, of the tail, where the discharging of guns are
by much, five locks, seven or y^e like, which seeme for
or give vent to y^e powder; but these Sulphurous
spirits, having as it seeme a more forcible
Nature, it doth violently thrust it selfe out, where
it findeth vent, like as wind, but rather like fire,
being of a fiery Nature; & may have the Effects of
bright shining fire, which when it hath no vent

Lye

Lyes as dead, but As soon as it can catch out
passage, or findes A vent, it breakes forth in A
violent Crack or thundering noise; I doe not say
of Effects of these spiritts are to flame or to burne
after y^e way, but only it hath of like Effects, as to
break, disperse, and **Spread** abroad as bright shining
fire, doth, for oyle of Sulphur vitrall spiritts &
the like fiery naturis, are those which are call'd
A cold dead fire, that is y^e exterior parts is cold
& dull, although the interior is hott, & Active
As for y^e wonder how this Liquid matter should be
pull into this glass, for it is distilled A Liquid
matter, is therein, which to my sense ^{that makes glasses} must
be first pull in, to y^e matter or substance, And
when y^e glass is blowne the liquor runs, or crowds
to y^e most hollowist, and largest place, it can get
into, like as wind will blow y^e Water into A
Crowd, or heape together, And fill All hollow
places it can get into — as ditches, pits, or y^e like,
Soe doth y^e breath of y^e glass maker, blow that oyle
effluvia, or spiritts into y^e belly of y^e glass
where before it can have soe much tyme to retire
backe; the end of y^e little porous tails is soathred up
Where afterwards when the soadred part is broke of
the spiritts finding vent stragles; & strives to
gett forth, wherein the strife it breakes the glass
to pieces, wherein it makes A noise, or report, like
A gun or rather, as A fired house, or y^e like; I
meane not for y^e loudness of y^e sound, for the
report is small, to such loud reports, though it be
great for soe small a body, but I compare these
spiritts

Spirits like to fire, and the glass: as the house
when in the ^{fire} Spirits are in as much as when they
break forth, they rend and disperse the materials
of their transparent house: In all ways, as also:
the fire ^{Spirits} spreads it self into vapor
& dies, for dilation is way to dissolution and as this
glass breaks when discharged so: I believe guns
at their discharging would break; if the barrels were
of glass, as they are of Iron, and I know nothing
to the contrary, but this liquid substance in this
glass, may be of Oyle of salt p. 110, which is
flatous, Corn stone and Charcoal, which is hot mixt
together and so may be a liquid gunpowder, or
rather Gunpowder made liquid, put into of glass, as
for of sound or report it gives when discharged by
giving of glass: Vent, may be by of same cause, and
make: Agreeing: A report for Ayre Although it be
Equal tempered, or cold when it have been pent up
and after wards have Vent, will make: a Loud report
so will Water or Any liquid for Ayre and will
have vocall Noises; but to draw ye towards an end
it appears thus to my Sense; that of Swift of of
Spirits or gunpowder liquor, and of brackly mist
of of glass is of cause of of breaking and powdering
of of same; and the Spirits being Ayre, and of liquid
windy, and being first pent up, and then gets
Vent is of cause of of sound, or Report, and for of
inclosure of of liquid is done by of Art: of the
Artificiers, which Art: if of philosophers know:
or had bin bound Apprentices to, might soon have
satisfied the King of France Curiosity, and
instructed him in of knowledge thereof, for this glass
more Concerns of Artificiers than of Naturall philosophers
or Speculators but Women wear at their Ears, as great
Wonders

Wonders, Although they make not so great
A Report, which are glass: bobbit, with narrow
nicks, as these glass: have tails, and yet is
filled with severall Coulter silke and Court:
black Cotton — wooll, which to my Sense is
more difficult to putt into these glass: pendants
then Liquor into these glass: garnit, but I shoud
make A tedious discourse, of what my Sense
have observed of these glass: y^e sent m^e,
which discourses may tye^e or Weary your
Sense to read it, but shoud only to excuse
m^e that I chose rather to say so much to shew
or express my Obedience to y^e Commands;
then to say so little as it may be thought
I was Negligent or void of shau. Committed
A fault in being our diligent, pray pardon
me, wherby you will do to those favors I have
received from you, for which next to your
Own Meritts hath obliged me to be

S^r

th
Antwerp 20 March 1657

Your humble friend
& servant
J. M. Newell