

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your second letter by Mr. De Witts  
 wherein I find your dissatisfaction of your opinion of those  
 little glasses, truly they are as obscure and hard to find  
 out by those who are unlearned in them, as Nature's Works;  
 but to leave my opinion, or rather to answer you  
 desires I shall argue something more of them; though  
 my arguments may be as weak as my opinions, &  
 my opinions, as weak as my judgment, & my  
 judgment as weak as want of knowledge can  
 make it. As for your liquor you say in your letter  
 that if it were a Sulphurous liquor, or a liquid  
 gunpowder (as I said) I thought it might be,  
 doubtless it would be active by the help of fire;  
 I answer for <sup>that</sup> fire hath several active effects both  
 in it selfe and upon other substances; or subject  
 wherefore if your liquor had been dry powder it might  
 be subject to the effect of fire, as to flash, flame, or  
 bounce, but if your powder were with the fire could  
 work no such effects, but as your substance is a  
 liquor fire is as subject to your liquor substance, or  
 matter, as that substance or matter is to fire  
 for all liquors although strong with spirits and hot  
 in operation will quench fire as suddenly as fire  
 shall evaporate liquor take quantity for quantity  
 and it is probable the high fire you did apply  
 to your glass, did evaporate out your liquor in the  
 glass, which might be your weakening & changing  
 or altering the former effects; Also you say you  
 cannot perceive of bubbles to be a liquor. I

Answer

Answer that it is probable the Liqueur, if any be  
therin was Evaporated out either by y<sup>e</sup> fire, you applyd  
or by y<sup>e</sup> vent of passage, which may soon turn  
it into Vapor, by reason of y<sup>e</sup> little quantity  
y<sup>e</sup> is in a glass, thus it might be washed before  
y<sup>e</sup> truth could possibly be found out: for  
certainly to my sense, as also to my reason  
A Liqueur appeared to be in those glasses, y<sup>e</sup> sent  
me. but if there be no Liqueur in those glasses  
then it is probable it might be <sup>put</sup> up as  
enclosed therin, which having vent was y<sup>e</sup> cause  
of the sound, or report which those glasses gave  
Thus & you may perceive by my Arguings, I

strive to make my former opinion, or sense  
good, although I do not bind my selfe to  
opinions, but truth; and y<sup>e</sup> truth is that though  
I cannot find out y<sup>e</sup> truth of y<sup>e</sup> glasses, yet  
In truth I Am.

Antwerp 30 march  
1657

So I would have writt  
my letters to you in my  
own hand but be cause  
my hand written

is not legible  
I thought you might rather  
have rest up at what I  
would say then had  
read what I had writt  
thus is the reason they were  
writt by an other hand

Your humble servant  
J. D. W. W. W.

