

W. Batten; and then to read them publicly, and consider of putting them in execution. About this all the morning. And it appearing necessary for the Controller to have another clark, I recommend Poynter to him, which he accepts, and I by that means rid of one that I fear would not have been fit for my turn – though he writes very well. At noon comes Mr. Hill to town, and finds me out here and brings Mr. Houlband, who met him here. So I was compelled to leave my Lord and his dinner and company, and with them to the Beare and dined with them and their brothers, of which Hill had his, and the other two of his – and mighty merry and very fine company they are, and I glad to see them. After dinner I forced to take leave of them, by being called upon by Mr. Andrews, I having sent for him; and by a fine glosse did bring him to desire tallies for what orders I have to pay him and his company for Tanger victualls; and I by that means cleared to myself 210*l*, coming to me upon their two orders, which is also a noble addition to my late profits, which have been very considerable of late; but how great, I know not till I come to cast up my accounts which burdens my mind that it should be so backward, but I am resolved to settle to nothing till I have done it. He gone, I to my Lord Brouncker and there spent the evening, by my desire, in seeing his Lordship open to pieces and make up again his Wach, thereby being taught what I never knew before; and it is a thing very well worth my having seen, and am mightily pleased and satisfied with it. So I sat talking with him till late at night – somewhat vexed at a snappish answer Madam Williams did give me to herself, upon my speaking a free word to her in mirth, calling her a mad Jade. She answered, we were not so well acquainted yet. But I was more [vexed] at a letter from my Lord Duke of Albemarle today, pressing us to continue our meetings for all Christmas, which, though everybody intended not to have done, yet I am concluded in it, who intended nothing else. But I see it is necessary that I do make often visits to my Lord Duke, which nothing shall hinder after I have evened my accounts; and now the River is frozen, I know not how to get to him. Thence to my lodging, making up my Journall for eight or nine days; and so my mind being eased of it, I to supper and to bed. The weather hath been frosty these eight or nine days, and so we hope for an abatement of the plague the next week; or else God have mercy upon us, for the plague will certainly continue the next year if it doth not.