

me, for under God I find it to be the best course that ever I could take to bring myself to mind my business. I have also made up this evening my monthly ballance; and find that notwithstanding the loss of 30*l* to be paid to the Loyall and necessitous Cavaliers by act of Parliament, yet I am worth about 680*l* – for which the Lord God be praised. My condition at present is this. I have long been building; and my house, to my great content, is now almost done; but yet not so but that I shall have dirt, which troubles me too – for my wife hath been in the country at Brampton these two months, and is now come home a week or two before the house is ready for her. My mind is somewhat troubled about my best chamber, which I Question whether I shall be able to keep or no. I am also troubled for my journey which I must needs take suddenly to the Court at Brampton, but most of all for that I am not provided to understand my business, having not minded it a great while; and at the best shall be able but to make a bad matter of it. But God, I hope, will guide all to the best, and I am resolved tomorrow to fall hard to it: I pray God bless me therein, for my father and mother and all our well-doings do depend upon my care therein.

Things are all quiet, but the King poor and no hopes almost of his being otherwise, by which things will go to wrack, especially in the Navy. The late outing of the presbyter Clergy, by their not renouncing the Covenant as the act [of] Parliament commands, is the greatest piece of state now in discourse. But for aught I see, they are gone out very peaceably and the people not so much concerned therein as was expected. My brother Tom is gone out of town this day to make a second journey to his mistress at Banbury – of which I have good expectations – and pray God to bless him therein. My mind, I hope, is settled to fallow my business again, for I find that two days' neglect of business doth give me more discontent in mind then ten times the pleasure thereof can repair again, be it what it will.

✧ OCTOBER ✧

4. To my office in the morning after I was up (my wife beginning to make me lie long a-mornings), where we sat till noon. And then dined at home; and after a little with my workmen, to my office till 9 at night. Among other things, examining the particulars of the