

having nothing upon me but the consideration of the sickliness of the season during this great plague to mortify mee. For all which, the Lord God be praised.

→ OCTOBER ←

1. *Lords day.* Called up about 4 of the clock, and so dressed myself; and so on board the *Bezan*, and there finding all my company asleep, I would not wake them; but it beginning to be break of day, I did stay upon the Decke walking and then into the Maisters Cabbin and there leaned and slept a little; and so at last was wakened by Capt. Cockes calling of me, and so I turned out, and then to chat and talk and laugh, and mighty merry. We spent most of the morning talking, and reading of *The Seige of Rhodes*, which is certainly (the more I read it the more I think so) the best poem that ever was wrote. We breakfasted betimes and came to the fleet about 2 of the clock in the afternoon, having a fine day and a fine winde. My Lord received us mighty kindly; and after discourse with us in general, left us to our business, and he to his officers, having called a council of Warr. We in the meantime settling of papers with Mr. Pierce and everybody else, and by and by with Capt. Cuttance. Anon called down to my Lord, and there with him till supper, talking and discourse. Among other things, to my great joy he did assure me that he had wrote to the King and Duke about these prize goods, and told me that they did approve of what he had done and that he would own what he had done, and would have me to tell all the world so; and did under his hand give Cocke and me his Certificate of our bargains, and giving us full power of disposal of what we have so bought. This doth ease my mind of all my fear, and makes my heart lighter by 100lb then it was before. He did discourse to us of the Dutch fleet being abroad, 85 of them still, and are now at the Texell he believes, in expectation of our Eastland ships coming home with masts and hemp, and our loaden Hambrough ships going to Hambrough. He discoursed against them that would have us yield to no conditions but conquest over the Dutch, and seems to believe that the Dutch will call for the protection of the King of France and come under his power – which were to be wished they might be brought to do under ours, by fair means; and to that end would have all Dutchmen and families that