

hardened itself at the bottom of the eare, of which I am very glad.

28. Great talk there is of a fear of a war with the Dutch;¹ and we have order to pitch upon 20 ships to be forthwith set out; but I hope it is but a scarecrow to the world, to let them see that we can be ready for them; though God knows, the King is not able to set out five ships at this present without great difficulty, we neither having money, credit, nor stores. My mind is now in a wonderful condition of quiet and content, more then ever in all my life – since my minding the business of my office, which I have done most constantly; and I find it to be the very effect of my late oaths against wine and plays; which, if God please, I will keep constant in. For now my business is a delight to me and brings me great credit, and my purse encreases too.

29. *Lords day.* Up by 4 a-clock, and to the settling of my own accounts, and I do find upon my monthly ballance (which I have undertaken to keep from month to month) that I am worth 650*l.* the greatest sum that ever I was yet master of. I pray God give me a thankful spirit, and care to improve and increase it.

30. Up betimes and to my office, where I find Griffens girl making it clean; but God forgive me, what a mind I have to her, but did not meddle with her. She being gone, I fell upon boring holes for me to see from my closet into the great office without going forth, wherein I please myself much. So settled to business; and at noon with my wife to the Wardrobe and there dined and stayed talking all the afternoon with my Lord. And about 4 a-clock took coach with my wife and Lady and went toward my house, calling at my Lady Carteret's, who was within by chance (she keeping altogether at Deptford for a month or two) and so we sat with her a little. Thence to my house, where I took great pride to lead her through the Court² by the hand, she being very fine and her page carrying up her train. She stayed a little at my house, and then walked through the garden and took water; and went first on board the King's pleasure-boat – which pleased her much; then to Greenwich parke, and with much ado, she was able to walk up to the top of the hill. And so down again and took boat, and so

1. Hostilities did not break out until 1664.

2. The main courtyard of Whitehall Palace.