

31. Lay pretty long in bed; and then up and among my workmen – the Carpenters being this day laying of my floor in my dining-room, with whom I stayed a good while; and so to my office and did a little business, and so home to dinner; and after dinner, all the afternoon with my carpenters, making them lay all my boards but one in my dining-room this day, which I am confident they would have made two good days' work of if I had not been there. Thus ends this month. I and my family in good health, but weary heartily of dirt; but now in hopes within two or three weeks to be out of it. My head troubled with much business – my law businesses for Brampton make me mad almost, for that I want time to fallow them; but I must by no means neglect them. I thank God I do save money, though it be but a little; but I hope to find out some jobb or other that I may get a sum by to set me up. I thank God I have no crosses, but only much business to trouble my mind with. In all other things, as happy a man as any in the world, for the whole world seems to smile upon me; and if my house were done, that I could diligently fallow my business, I would not doubt to do God and the King, and myself, good service. And all I do impute almost wholly to my late temperance, since my making of my vowes against wine and plays, which keeps me most happily and contentfully to my business – which God continue. Public matters are full of discontent – what with the sale of Dunkirke – and my Lady Castlemayne and her faction at Court; though I know not what they would have, more then to debauch the King, whom God preserve from it.

✧ NOVEMBER ✧

1. Up, and after a little while with my workmen, I went to my office and then to our sitting all the morning. At noon with Mr. Creede, whom I find at my house, to the Trinity house to a great dinner there by invitation, and much company. It seem[s] one Capt. Evans makes his Elder Brother's dinner today. Among other discourses, one Mr. Oudant, Secretary to the late Princesse of Orange, did discourse of the convenience as to keeping the highways from being deep, by their horses in Holland (and Flanders, where the ground is as miry as ours is) going in their carts