

31. *Lords day.* To my office and there made my monthly [balance], and find myself worth in money about 686*l* 19*s.* 02*½d.* for which God be praised. And endeed, greatly I ought to thank Almighty God, who doth most manifestly bless me in my endeavours to do the duty of my office – I now saving money and my expenses being very little. My wife is still in the country. My house all in dirt, but my work in a good forwardness and will be much to my mind at last.

## — SEPTEMBER —

3. Up betimes; but now the days begin to shorten and so whereas I used to rise by 4 a-clock, it is not broad daylight now till after 5 a-clock, so that it is 5 before I do rise. To my office; and about 8 a-clock I went over to Redriffe and walked to Deptford, where I find Mr. Coventry and Sir W. Pen beginning the pay – it being my desire to be there today, because it is the first pay that Mr. Coventry hath been at and I would be thought to be as much with Mr. Coventry as I can. Here we stayed till noon, and by the time paid off the *Breda*; and then to dinner at the Taverne, where I have obtained that our commons is not so large as they used to be, which I am glad to see. After dinner, by water to the office; and there we met and sold the *Weymouth*, *Successe*, and *Fellowship Hulke*. Where pleasant to see how backward men are at first to bid; and yet when the candle is going out, how they bawl and dispute afterward who bid the most first. And here I observed one man cunninger then the rest, that was sure to bid the last man and to carry it; and enquiring the reason, he told me that just as the flame goes out the smoke descends, which is a thing I never observed before, and by that he doth know the instant to bid last – which is very pretty. In our discourse in the boat, Mr. Coventry told us how the Fanatiques and the Presbyters that did intend to rise about this times did choose this day as the most auspicious to them in their endeavours against monarchy – it being fatal twice to the King,<sup>1</sup> and the day of Olivers death. But blessed be God, all is likely to be quiet I hope.

5. To Mr. Bland's the merchant, by invitation (I alone of all our

1. At the battles of Dunbar (1650) and Worcester (1651).