

office and there busy till night, doing much business; then home and to my accounts; wherein, beyond expectation, I succeeded so well as to settle them very clear and plain, though by borrowing of monies this month to pay D. Gawden and chopping and changing with my Tanger money, they were become somewhat intricate. And blessed be God, upon the evening my accounts, I do appear 6800*l* creditor. This done, I to supper about 12 at night, and so to bed – the weather for three or four days being come to be exceeding cold again, as any time this year. I did within these six days see smoke still remaining of the late fire in the City; and it is strange to think how to this very day I cannot sleep a-night without great terrors of fire; and this very night could not sleep till almost 2 in the morning through thoughts of fire. Thus this month is ended with great content of mind to me – thriving in my estate, and my matters in my offices going pretty well as to myself. This afternoon Mr. Gawden was with me, and tells me more then I knew before: that he hath orders to get all the victuals he can to Plymouth and the Western ports and other outports, and some to Scotland; so that we do entend to keep but a flying fleet this year; which it may be may preserve us a year longer, but the end of it must be ruin. Sir J. Mennes this night tells me that he hears for certain that ballads are made of us in Holland for begging of a peace; which I expected, but am vexed at. So ends this month, with nothing of weight upon my mind but for my father and mother, who are both ill and have been so for some weeks – whom God help, but I do fear my poor father will hardly be ever thoroughly well again.

✧ MARCH ✧

1. In the street in Mark lane do observe (it being St. Davids' day) the picture of a man dressed like a Welchman, hanging by the neck upon one of the poles that stand out at the top of one of the merchants' houses, in full proportion and very handsomely done – which is one of the oddest sights I have seen a good while, for it was so like a man that one would have thought it was ended a man. Being returned home, I find Greeting the flagelette-master come and teaching my wife; and I do think my wife will take pleasure in it, and it will be easy for her and pleasant – so I, as I am well contented with the charge it will occasion me. So to the office till