

woman, and in mighty good humour was tonight. Among other things, Laneare did at the request of Mr. Hill bring two or three the finest prints for my wife to see that ever I did see in all my life. But for singing, among other things, we got Mrs. Coleman to sing part of the Opera; but above all, her counterfeiting of Capt. Cooke's part, in his reproaching his men with Cowardize, Base Slaves &c., she doth it most excellently: at it till past midnight, and then broke up and to bed. Hill and I together again – and being very sleepy, we had little discourse as we had the other night.

Thus we end the month merrily; and the more, for that after some fears that the plague would have encreased again this week, I hear for certain that there is above 400 [decrease] – the whole number being 1388; and of them, of the plague, 1031. Want of money in the Navy puts everything out of order. Men grow mutinous. And nobody here to mind the business of the Navy but myself. At least, Sir W. Batten for the few days he hath been here doth nothing. I in great hopes of my place of Surveyor-Generall of the Victualling, which will bring me 300*l* per annum.

✧ NOVEMBER ✧

1. Lay very long in bed, discoursing with Mr. Hill of most things of a man's life, and how little merit doth prevail in the world, but only favour – and that for myself, chance without merit brought me in, and that diligence only keeps me so, and will, living as I do among so many lazy people, that the diligent man becomes necessary, that they cannot do anything without him. And so told him of my late business of the victualling and what cares I am in to keep myself, having to do with people of so different factions at Court, and yet must be fair with them all – which was very pleasant discourse for me to tell, as well, as he seemed to take it, for him to hear. At last up, and it being a very foul day for rain and a hideous wind, yet having promised I would go, by water to Erith – and bearing sail, was in danger of oversetting – but made them take down their sail; and so, cold and wet, got thither as they had ended their dinner. How[ever], I dined well. And after dinner, all on shore, my Lord Brouncker with us, to Mrs. Williams's lodgings, and Sir W. Batten, Sir Edmd. Pooley and others; and there, it being my Lord's birthday, had everyone a greene riband tied in our hats,