

hazardous. I hope he will prove a good discreet man. After dinner, to my papers and Tanger accounts again till supper, and after supper, again to them; but by my mixing them, I know not how, my private and public accounts, it makes me mad to see how hard it is to bring them to be understood; and my head is confounded, that though I did swear to sit up till one a-clock upon them, yet I fear it will be to no purpose, for I cannot understand what I do or have been doing of them today.

29. All the morning hard at the office. At noon dined, and then out to Lumbard street to look after the getting in of some money that is lodged there of mine in Viner's hands, I having no mind to have it lie there longer. So back again and to the office, where, and at home, about public and private business and accounts till past 12 at night, and so to bed. This day poor Jane,¹ my old little Jane, came to us again, to my wife's and my great content; and we hope to take mighty pleasure in her, she having all the marks and qualities of a good and loving and honest servant – she coming by force away from the other place where she hath lived ever since she went from us, and at our desire – her late mistress having used all the stratagems she could to keep her.

30. To Hales's and there sat till almost quite dark upon working my gowne, which I hired to be drawn [in] – an Indian gown, and I do see all the reason to expect a most excellent picture of it. Thus home, and to my private accounts in my chamber till past one in the morning; and so to bed – with my head full of thoughts for my evening of all my accounts tomorrow, the latter end of the month; in which God give me good issue, for I never was in such a confusion in my life, and that in great sums.

31. All the morning at the office busy. At noon to dinner, and thence to the office and did my business there as soon as I could, and then home and to my accounts, where very late at them. But Lord, what a deal of do I have to understand any part of them. And in short, do what I could, I could not come to an understanding of them; but after I had thoroughly wearied myself, I was forced to go to bed and leave them, much against my will, and vow too; but I hope God will forgive me in it, for I have sat up these four nights till

1. Jane Birch.