

fine gentleman, and peticularly of Paynting, in which he tells me the beautiful Mrs. Middleton is rare, and his own wife doth brave things. He brought me to the office, whither comes unexpectedly Capt. Cocke, who hath brought one parcel of our goods by waggons. And at first resolved to have lodged them at our office; but then the thoughts of its being the King's house altered our resolution, and so put them at his friend's, Mr. Glanvill's, and there they are safe: would the rest of them were so too. In discourse we came to mention my profit, and he offers me 500*l* profit clear, and I demand 600*l* for my certain profit. We part tonight, and I lie there at Mr. Glanvill's house, there being none there but a maydservant and a young man.

30. Up, and to the office, where busy all the morning; and at noon with Sir W. Batten to Coll. Cleggat to dinner, being invited – where a very pretty dinner to my full content, and very merry. The great burden we have upon us at this time at the office is the providing for prisoners and sick men that are recovered, they lying before our office doors all night and all day, poor wretches. Having been on shore, the Captains won't receive them on board, and other ships we have not to put them on, nor money to pay them off or provide for them. God remove this difficulty. This made us fallowed all the way to this gentleman's house, and there are waited for our coming out after dinner. Thence, mighty merry and much pleased with the dinner and company, and they with me, I parted; and there was set upon by the poor wretches, whom I did give words and some little money to; and the poor people went away like lambs, and in good earnest are not to be censured if their necessities drive them to bad Courses of stealing or the like, while they lack wherewith to live. Thence to the office, and there wrote a letter or two and despatched a little business; and then to Capt. Cocke's, where I find Mr. Temple, the fat blade, Sir Rob. Viner's chief man, and we three, and two companions of his, in the evening by agreement took ship in the *Bezan*, and the tide carried us no further then Woolwich, about 8 at night. And so I on shore to my wife and so to sleep with a good deal of content.

And saving only this night, and a day or two about the same business about a month or six weeks ago, I do end this month with the greatest content, and may say that these last three months, for joy, health and profit, have been much the greatest that ever I received in all my life in any twelve months almost in my life –