

tell me. But today he told her plainly that had she a child it should be his heire; and that should I or she want, he would be a good friend to us, and did give my wife instructions to consent to all his wife says at any time, she being a pettish woman; which argues a design he hath I think of keeping us in with his wife, in order to our good, sure – and he declaring her jealousy of him, that so he dares not come to see my wife as otherwise he would do and will endeavour to do. It looks strange, putting all together; but yet I am in hopes he means well. After all this discourse with my wife at my office alone, she home to see how the wash goes on and I to make an end of my work; and so home to supper and to bed.

23. Up, it being *Shrove Tuseday*, and at the office sat all the morning. At noon to the Change and there met with Sir W. Rider; and of a sudden, knowing what I had at home, brought him and Mr. Cutler and Mr. Cooke, clerk to Mr. Secretary Morrice, a sober and learned man and one I knew heretofore when he was my Lord [Lockhart's] secretary at Dunkirke. I made much of them and had a pretty dinner for a sudden; we talked very pleasantly, and they many good discourses of their travels abroad. After dinner, they gone and I to my office, where doing many businesses very late; but to my good content, to see how I grow in estimation every day more and more, and have things given more oftener then I used to have formerly; as, to have a case of very pretty knives with agate hafts by Mrs. Russell. So home and to bed. This day, by the blessing of God, I have lived 31 years in the world; and by the grace of God I find myself not only in good health in everything, and perticularly [as] to the stone, but only pain upon taking cold; and also in a fair way of coming to a better esteem and estate in the world then ever I expected; but I pray God give me a heart to fear a fall and to prepare for it.

24. *Ashwendesday*. Up and by water, it being a very fine morning, to Whitehall and there to speak with Sir Ph. Warrwicke, but he was gone out to Chappell. So I spent much of the morning walking in the park and going to the Queen's chapel, where I stayed and saw their masse till a man came and bid me go out or kneel down; so I did go out. And thence to Somersett house and there into the chapel, where Monsieur Despagne used to preach. But now it is made very fine and was ten times more crowded then the Queen's chapel at St. James's – which I wonder at. Thence down to the