

that means setting his brains at work to find out who she was; and did give him leave to use all means to find out who she was but pulling off her mask. He was mighty witty; and she also making sport with him very inoffensively, that a more pleasant rencontre I never heard. But by that means lost the pleasure of the play wholly, to which now and then Sir Ch. Sidlys exceptions against both words and pronouncing was very pretty. So home and to the office; did much business; then home to supper and to bed.

19. Up, and to the office, where all the morning doing little business, our want of money being so infinite great. At noon home, and there find old Mr. Michell and Howlett come to desire mine and my wife's company to dinner to their son's; and so away by coach with them, it being Betty's wedding-day a year – as also Shrove tuesday. Here I made myself mighty merry, the two old women being there also; and a mighty pretty dinner we had in this little house, to my exceeding great content and my wife's, and my heart pleased to see Betty. But I have not been so merry a very great while as with them, everything pleasing me there as much as among so mean company I could be pleased. After dinner I fell to read the Acts about the building of the City again; and ended, the laws seem to be very good, and I pray God I may live to see it built in that manner. Anon, with much content home, walking with my wife and her woman; and there to my office, where late doing much business; and then home to supper and to bed. This morning I hear that our discourse of peace is all in the dirt, for the Dutch do not like of the place;¹ or at least, the French will not agree to it; so that I do wonder what we shall do, for carry on the war we cannot. I long to hear the truth of it tomorrow at Court.

23. This day I am by the blessing of God 34 years old – in very good health and mind's content, and in condition of estate much beyond whatever my friends could expect of a child of theirs this day 34 year. The Lord's name be praised and may I be ever thankful for it. Up betimes to the office, in order to my letter to the Duke of York tomorrow. And then the office met and spent the greatest part about this letter. At noon home to dinner and then to the office again, very close at it all day till midnight, making an end and writing fair this great letter and other things, to my full content – it