

26. *Lords day*. To church in the morning and then home to dinner alone with my wife; and so both to church in the afternoon and home again; and so to read and talk with my wife, and to supper and bed. It having been a very fine clear frosty day – God send us more of them, for the warm weather all this winter makes us fear a sick summer. But thanks be to God, since my leaving drinking of wine, I do find myself much better and to mind my business better and to spend less money, and less time lost in idle company.

27. This morning, both Sir Wms and I by barge to Deptford yard to give order in businesses there; and called on several ships also to give orders.

28. This morning (after my musique practice with Mr. Berchen-sha) with my wife to the paynters,¹ where we stayed very late to have her picture mended; which at last is come to be very like her, and I think well done. But the paynter, though a very honest man, I find to be very silly as to matter of skill in shadowes – for we were long in discourse, till I was almost angry to hear him talk so simply. So home to dinner and then to the office, and so home for all night.

❖FEBRUARY❖

3. After musique practice I went to the office, and there with the two Sir Wms all the morning about business. At noon I dined with Sir W. Batten with many friends more, it being his Wedding-day. And among other Froliques, it being their third year, they had three pyes, whereof the middlemost was made of an ovall form in an Ovall hole within the other two which made much mirth and was called the middle peace; and above all the rest, we had great striving to steal a spoonefull out of it; and I remember Mrs. Mills the minister's wife did steal one for me and did give it me; and to end all, Mrs. Shippman did fill the pie full of White wine (it holding at least a pint and a half) and did drink it off for a health to Sir Wm. and my Lady, it being the greatest draught that ever I did see a woman drink in my life. Before we had dined came Sir G. Carteret, and we went all three to the office and did business there till night. And then

1. See above, p. 165 (23 November) & n.