

– and would have me to aske the Dukes letter.¹ But I shall not endeavour it – because it will spend much money, though I am sure I could well obtaine it. This is now 28 years that I am born. And blessed be God, and a state of full content and great hopes to be a happy man in all respects, both to myself and friends.

24. *Sunday*. Mr. Mills made an excellent sermon in the morning against Drunkenness that ever I heard in my life. I dined at home. Another good one of his in the afternoon. My Valentine had her fine gloves on at church today that I did give her. After sermon my wife and I into Sir W. Batten's and sat awhile. Then home – I to read. Then to supper and to bed.

26. *Shrovetuesday*. I left my wife in bed, being indisposed by reason of *ceux-là* – and I to Mrs. Turners, who I find busy with The[oph]. and Joyce making of things ready for Fritters. So I to Mr. Crews and there delivered Cottgraves dictionary – to my Lady Jemimah. And then with Mr. Moore to my Cozen Tom Pepys's; but he being out of town, I spoke with his lady – though not of the business I went about, which was to borrow 1000*l* for my Lord. Back to Mrs. Turners, where several friends, all strangers to me but Mr. Armiger, din'd. Very merry, and the best fritters that ever I eat in my life. After that look out at Window; saw the flinging at Cocks.²

27. At the office all the morning. Then came into the garden to me young Mr. Powell and Mr. Hooke, that I once knew at Cambrige, and I took them in and gave them a bottle of wine and so parted. Then I called for a dish of fish, which we had for dinner – this being the first day of Lent; and I do entend to try whether I can keep it or no. This day the Comissioners of Parliament begin to pay off the Fleet, beginning with the *Hampshire* – and do it at Guildhall for fear of going out of the town into the power of the seamen, who are highly incensed against them.

28. This month ends with two great Secrets under dispute, but yet known to very few. First, who the King will marry. And what the meaning of this fleet is which we are now sheathing to set out for

1. Of recommendation.

2. The Shrove-Tuesday custom of throwing sticks at a bird tethered by its leg.