

so many ways to be come to, and at my windows over the stairs, to see who goes up and down – but if I escape tonight, I will remedy it. God preserve us this night safe. So at almost 2 a-clock, I home to my house and in great fear to bed, thinking every running of a mouse really a thief – and so to sleep, very brokenly all night long – and found all safe in the morning.

FEBRUARY

4. To my office, and there all the morning. At noon, being invited, I to the Sun behind the Change to dinner to my Lord Bellasses – where a great deal of discourse with him – and some good. Among other at table, he told us a very handsome passage of the King's sending him his message about holding out the town of Newarke, of which he was then governor for the King. This message he sent in a Slugg bullet, being writ in Cypher and wrapped up in lead and swallowed. So the messenger came to my Lord and told him he had a mesage from the King, but it was yet in his belly; so they did give him some physic, and out it came.

7. Up, and to my office, where busy all the morning. And at home, at dinner, it being Shrove Tuseday, had some very good fritters. All the afternoon and evening at the office. And at night home to supper and to bed. This day Sir W. Batten, who hath been sick four or five days, is now very bad, so as that people begin to fear his death – and I at a loss whether it will be better for me to have him die, because he is a bad man, or live, for fear a worse should come.

9. Up, and to my office, where all the morning very busy. At noon home to dinner, and then to my office again – where Sir Wm. Petty came, among other things, to tell me that Mr. Barlow is dead; for which, God knows my heart, I could be as sorry as is possible for one to be for a stranger by whose death he gets 100*l* per annum¹ – he being a very honest man. But after having considered that when I come to consider the providence of God, by this means unexpectedly to give me 100*l* a year more in my estate, I have cause

1. See above, p. 64 (17 July).