

431 PEPYS TO NEWTON 11/22/1693

Wednesd. Nov 22th 1693

Sr

However this comes accompany'd with a little trouble to you; yet I cannot but say, that ye occasion is welcome to me, in that it gives me an opportunity of telling you, that I continue most sensible of my Obligations to you, most desirous of rendring you Service in whatever you shall think me able; and noe lesse afflicted when I heare of your being in Towne without knowing how to wait on you, till it be too late for me to doe it.

This sayd, and with great Truth & Respect; I goe on to tell you, that ye Bearer Mr. Smith is One I beare great goodwill to, noe less for what I personally know of his general Ingenuity, Industry, and Virtue, than for ye general Reputation he has in this Towne (inferiour to none, but superiour to most) for his Maistery in the two Points of his Profession, namely, Faire-Writeing and Arithmetick, soe farr (principally) as is subervient to Accountantship. Now soe it is, That ye late Project (of which you cannot but have heard) of Mr Neale ye Groom-Porter his Lottery, has almost extinguish'd for some time at all places of publick Conversation in this Towne, especially among Men of Numbers, every other Talk but what relates to ye Doctrine of determining between ye true proportions of the Hazards incident ot this or that given Chance or Lot.

On this occasion it has fallen-out, that this Gentleman is become concern'd (more than in jest) to compass a Solution that may be rely'd-on beyond what his Modesty will suffer him to think his owne alone, or any less than Mr Newton's to be, to a Question which he takes a Journey on purpose to attend yhou with, and pray'd my giving him this Introduction to you to that purpose, which not in common friendship only, but as due to his soe earnest an application after Truth, though in a Matter of Speculation alone, I cannot deny him, & therefore trust you will forgive me in it, & the trouble I desire you to beare at my instance, of giving him your decision upon it, & ye processe of your coming at it. Wherein I shall esteem myselfe on his behalfe greatly owing to you, & remaine,

Honoured Sir,

Your most humble & most
affecte. & faithfl. Serv.
S.P.

The Question.

- A – has 6 dice in a Box, wth wch he is to fling a 6.
- B – has in another Box 12 Dice, wth wch he is to fling 2 Sixes.
- C – has in another Box 18 Dice, wth wch he is to fling 3 Sixes.
- Q. whether B & C have not as easy a Taske as A, at even luck?

from H. W. Turnbull, *ed.*, *The Correspondence of Isaac Newton*,
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