

Wednesday. Feb. 14. 1693/4

Sr

I have taken all this time for't, & can scarce yet tell, in what Termes to thank You for Your late admirable Present: whether as for a further exercise upon my old Lesson (which indeed I expected, & have been struggling to apply it to) or for a New & different one; namely, That A (in our Question) has an easier Taske than B, & a yet more easy one than C; such (I take it) being ye Doctrine of this Paper, & full glad I am of my soe seasonably meeting with it, as being upon ye very Brink of a Wager (10 pounds deep) upon my former Belief. But Apostacy (wee all know) is now no Novelty, & therefore like others I shall endeavour to make ye best of mine, & face my Antagonist downe that I always meant thus. But then I must begg Your Ayde, that I may not be outbrav'd (as I have sometimes seen it done at Garraways') by a Cross-Offer, & for want of knowing well why, not know which to stick to. But this will require another Cast of Your Kindnesse; for I cannot bear the Thought of being made Master of a Jewell I know not how to wear. Besides that I esteem it no lessening to mee to acknowledge, that ye much greater part of ye learning You lay before mee in this Paper lies beyond my Depth, & that without your Hand, I must sink in ye attempting it.

For the Self-Deniall You accompany it with; 'tis a Fundamentall with mee, That nothing that (like this) brings knowledge with it, can bee either tedious, unprofitable, or unpleasant. And therefore coming so full fraughted as it does of that, I can spare You Your Modesty back again, & shall when I see You; Which if I might propose, should bee this Noone, before to Morrow's, & ye rather because today wee may bee alone, to morrow wee can't, Friday is too far off, & What then must Saturday bee?

your most obliged, & most humble &
affectionate Servant.
S. PEPYS

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