

Crofts¹ the King's bastard, a most pretty sparke of about 15 year old; who I perceive doth hang much upon my Lady Castlemayne and is alway with her. And I hear the Queenes, both of them, are mighty kind to him. By and by, in comes the King, and anon the Duke and his Duchesse; so that, they being all together, was such a sight as I could never almost have happened to see with so much ease and leisure.

8. Up betimes and to my office, preparing an account to give the Duke this morning of what we have of late done at the office. About 7 a-clock I went forth, thinking to go along with Sir John Minnes and the rest, and I find them gone, which did vex me; so I went directly to the old Swan and took boat before them and to Sir G. Carteret's lodgings at Whitehall; and there staying till he was dressed, talking with him, he and I to St. James's, where Sir Wms both and Sir John were come; and so up with Mr. Coventry to the Duke, who after he was out of his bed, did send for us in; and when he was quite ready, took us into his closet and there told us that he doth entend to renew the old custom for the Admiralls* to have their principal officers to meet them once a week to give them an account what they have done that week, which I am glad of; and so the rest did tell his Royal Highness that I could do it best for the time past, and so I produced my short notes and did give him an account of all that we have of late done and proposed to him several things for his commands; which he did give us and so dismiss us.

12. At my office all the morning – Mr. Lewes teaching me to understand the method of making up pursers accounts, which is very needful for me and very hard. Dined at home, all in dirt and my mind weary of being thus out of order; but I hope in God it will away, but for the present I am very melancholy, as I have been a great while. All the afternoon, till 9 at night, at my office; and then home and eat an egge or two, and so to my lodgings. And to bed.

14. *Lords day.* Sir George told me of a Chest of Drawers that was given Sir W. Batten by Hughes the Ropemaker, whom he hath since put out of his employment, and now the fellow doth cry out upon Sir Wm. for his Cabinet.

1. Created Duke of Monmouth, 14 February 1663, but known by that title for some months before.