

Mrs. Middleton, as I was told the other day; but says that he wants not her, for he hath others and hath alway had, and that he hath known them brought through the Matted Gallery at Whitehall into his closet. Nay, he hath come out of his wife's bed and gone to others laid in bed for him. That Mr. Brouncker is not the only pimp, but that the whole family is of the same strain, and will do anything to please him. That, besides the death of the two princes lately, the family is in horrible disorder by being in debt, by spending above 60000*l* per annum when he hath not 40000*l*. That the Duchesse is not only the proudest woman in the world, but the most expenseful; and that the Duke of York's marriage with her hath undone the kingdom by making the Chancellor so great above reach, who otherwise would have been but an ordinary man, to have been dealt with by other people, and he would have been careful of managing things well, for fear of being called to account; whereas now, he is secure and hath let things run to wrack, as they now appear.

He tells me that the other day, upon this ill news of the Dutch being upon us, Whitehall was shut up and the Council called and sat close (and by the way he doth assure me, from the mouth of some privy councillors, that at this day the Privy council in general doth know no more what the state of the kingdom as to peace and war is then he or I, nor knows who manages it nor upon whom it depends); and there my Lord Chancellor did make a speech to them, saying that they knew well that he was no friend to the war from the beginning, and therefore had concerned himself little in, nor could say much to it; and a great deal of that kind, to discharge himself of the fault of the war – upon which, my Lord Anglesy rose up and told his Majesty that he thought their coming now together was not to enquire who was or was not the cause of the war, but to enquire what was or could be done in the business of making a peace, and in whose hands that was and where it was stopped or forwarded; and went on very highly to have all made open to them: he tells me, speaking of the horrid effeminacy of the King, that the King hath taken ten times more care and pains making friends between my Lady Castlemayne and Mrs. Steward when they have fallen out, then ever he did to save his kingdom. That the King is at this day every night in Hyde park with the Duke of Monmouth or with my Lady Castlemaine. Having done all this discourse and concluded the Kingdom in a desperate condition, we parted; and I to my wife, with whom was Mercer and Betty Michell; we sat in