

my Lord Orrery is his father almost in affection. He tells me, my Lord of Suffolke – Lord Arlington – Archbishop of Canterbury – Lord Treasurer – Mr. Atturney Mountagu – (Sir Tho. Clifford in the House of Commons), Sir G. Carteret, and some others I cannot presently remember, are friends that I may rely on for him. He tells me my Lord Chancellor seems his very good friend, but doubts that he may not think him as much a servant of the Duke of York's as he would have him; and ended my Lord tells me he hath lately made it his business to be seen studious of the King's favour, and not of the Duke's, and by the King will stand or fall – for factions there are, as he tells me, and God knows how high they may come. The Duke of Albemarle's post is so great, having had the name of bringing in the King, that he is like to stand; or, if it were not for him, God knows in what troubles we might be from some private factions, if an army could be got into another hand, which God forbid. It is believed that though Mr. Coventry be in appearance so great against the Chancellor, yet that there is a good understanding between the Duke¹ and him. He dreads the issue of this year, and fears there will be some very great revolutions* before his coming back again. He doubts it is needful for him to have a pardon for his last year's action,² all which he did without commission, and at most but the King's private single word for that of Bergen; but he dares not ask it at this time, lest it should make them think that there is something more in it then yet they know; and if it should be denied, it would be of very ill consequence. He says also, if it should in Parliament be enquired into, the selling of Dunkirke (though the Chancellor was the man that would have it sold to France, saying the King of Spain had no money to give for it), yet he will be found to have been the greatest adviser of it – which he is a little apprehensive may be called upon this Parliament. He told me it would not be necessary for him to tell me his debts, because he thinks I know them so well. The Duke hath for this week or two been very kind to him, more then lately, and so others; which he thinks is a good sign of fair weather again. He says the Archbishop of Canterbury hath been very kind to him, and hath plainly said to him that he and all the world knows the difference between his judgment and brains and the Duke of Albema[r]les – and then calls my Lady Duchess the veriest slut and drudge, and the foulest word

1. The Duke of York.

2. The prize goods affair.