

finding it hard to save anything at the year's end as I now live, I think I shall not be such a fool – till I am more warm in my purse; besides my oath of entering into no such expenses till I am worth 1000*l.* By my last year's diligence in my office, blessed be God, I am come to a good degree of knowledge therein; and am acknowledged so by all the world, even the Duke himself, to whom I have a good accesse, and by that and my being Comissioner with him for Tanger, he takes much notice of me, and I doubt not but by the continuance of the same endeavours I shall in a little time come to be a man much taken notice of in the world – especially, being come to so great an esteem with Mr. Coventry. The only weight that lies heavy upon my mind is the ending the business with my uncle Thomas about my dead uncles estate, which is very ill on our side; and I fear, when all is done, I must be forced to maintain my father myself, or spare a good deal towards it out of my own purse – which will be a very great pull-backe to me in my fortune. But I must be contented and bring it to an issue one way or other.

Public matters stand thus. The King is bringing, as is said, his family and Navy and all other his charges to a less expense. In the meantime, himself fallowing his pleasures more then with good advice he would do – at least, to be seen to all the world to do so – his dalliance with my Lady Castlemayne being public every day, to his great reproach. And his favouring of none at Court so much as those that are the confidants of his pleasure as Sir H. Bennet and Sir Ch. Barkely – which good God put it into his heart to mend – before he makes himself too much contemned by his people for it. The Duke of Monmouth is in so great splendour at Court and so dandled by the King, that some doubt, if the King should have no child by the Queene (which there is yet no appearance of), whether he would not be acknowledged for a lawful son. And that there will a difference fallow upon it between the Duke of York – and him – which God prevent. My Lord Chancellor is threatened by people to be Questioned, the next sitting of the parliament, by some spirits that do not love to see him so great. But certainly he is a good servant to the King. The Queene Mother is said to keep too great a Court now; and her being married to my Lord St. Albans is commonly talked of, and that they had a daughter between them in France. How true, God knows.¹ The Bishopps are high and go on without any diffidence in pressing uniformity; and the Presbyters

1. See above, pp. 235–6 (22 November) & n.