

anything of my Lord's being out of Favour with the King. And told me that for certain the King doth take mighty notice of my Lord's living obscurely in a corner, not like himself and becoming the honour that he is come to. He told me also how loose the Court is, nobody looking after business but every man his lust and gain; and how the King is now become besotted upon Mrs. Steward, that he gets into corners and will be with her half an hour together, kissing her to the observation of all the world; and she now stays by herself and expects it, as my Lady Castlemayne did use to do; to whom the King, he says, is still kind, so as now and then he goes to have a chat with her as he believes, but with no such fondness as he used to do. But yet it is thought that this new wench is so subtle, that she lets him not do anything more then is safe to her. But yet his doting is so great that Pierce tells me it is verily thought, that if the Queen had died, he would have married her. The Duke of Monmouth is to have part of the Cockepitt new built for lodgings for him; and they say to be made Captain of the Guards in the room of my Lord Gerard. In the evening to the Coffee-house and there sat, till by and by, by appointment, Will brought me word that his uncle Blackeburne was ready to speak with me. So I went down to him, and he and I to a taverne hard by. Mr. Blackeburne and I fell to talk of many things; wherein I did speak so freely to him in many things agreeing with his sense, that he was very open to me in all things. First, in that of Religion, he makes it great matter of prudence for the King and Council to suffer liberty of conscience. And imputes the loss of Hungary to the Turke from the Emperors denying them this liberty of their religion. He says that many pious Ministers of the word of God – some thousands of them, do now beg their bread. And told me how highly the present Clergy carry themselves everywhere, so as that they are hated and laughed at by everybody. He tells me that the King, by name, with all his dignities, is prayed for by them that they call Fanatiques, as heartily and powerfully as in any of the other churches that are thought better. And that let the King think what he will, it is them that must help him in the day of Warr – for, as they are the most, so generally they are the most substantiall sort of people, and the soberest. And did desire me to observe it to my Lord Sandwich, among other things, that of all the old army now, you cannot see a man begging about the street. But what? You shall have this Captain turned a shoemaker; the lieutenant, a Baker; this, a brewer; that, a haberdasher; this common soldier, a porter; and every man in his apron and frock,