⸙PRELIMINARY NOTE⸙

When he begins his diary Pepys is close on 27, and married. He
has not long since recovered from an operation for the stone (in
March 1658) and is still nervous of a recurrence of the trouble. He
is employed by his patron Edward Mountagu ('my Lord') as his
man of business, and also has a minor clerkship in the Exchequer.

In public affairs great changes are clearly impending – though
what changes no-one is sure. The military government established
by Lambert in October 1659 has collapsed and on Boxing Day the
Rump Parliament – 'interrupted' by Lambert's coup – has
resumed its sessions. It is now, in early January, to elect a Council
of State. The Rump, consisting of only 50 M.P.s, is the remnant
of the parliament elected in the autumn of 1640 two years before
the Civil War broke out. It symbolises therefore the return of
civilian government and represents to all except the republican and
puritan extremists the best available hope of returning to some
form of political stability. It has the support of Monck, com-
mander of the republic's best troops, the regiments stationed in
Scotland (who is a strong believer in civilian government, but
whose views are otherwise mysterious), of Lawson, the com-
mander of the fleet, and of the Common Council of London,
newly elected on 21 December. All support it in the expectation
that it will accept that its rôle is that of a provisional government,
whose function is to arrange for the election of a 'full and free'
parliament – one, that is, in which all constituencies are repre-
sented and whose members are not bound by an oath to preserve
the republic. This however is not likely to happen unless the
Rump is expanded by the admission of the 154 'secluded mem-
bers' – the moderates excluded in Pride's Purge just before the
execution of the King in 1649. Parliament thus reinforced would
be able to pass the legislation necessary for its own dissolution.

The Rump is soon persuaded – by addresses from every part of
the country and even more powerfully by Monck's army, which