

badness of the Government, where nothing but wickedness, and wicked men and women command the King. That it is not in his nature to gainsay anything that relates to his pleasures. That much of it arises from the sickliness of our Ministers of State, who cannot be about him as the idle companions are, and therefore give way to the young rogues; and then from the negligence of the Clergy, that a Bishop shall never be seen about him, as the King of France hath always. He tells me mighty stories of the King of France, how great a prince he is. He hath made a Code to shorten the law. He hath put out all the ancient commanders of castles that were become hereditary. He hath made all the Fryers subject to the Bishops, which before were only subject to Rome and so were hardly the King's subjects. And that none shall become religious* but at such an age – which he thinks will in few years ruin the pope and bring France into a patriarchate. He confirmed to me the business of the want of paper at the Council table the other day, which I have observed – Wooly being to have found it, and did, being called, tell the King to his face the reason of it. And Mr. Eveling tells me that several of the menial servants of the Court lack bread, that have not received a farding wages since the King's coming in. He tells me the King of France hath his Maistresses, but laughs at the foolery of our King, that makes his bastards princes, and loses his revenue upon them – and makes his mistresses his maisters. And the King of France did never grant Lavaliere anything to bestow on others; and gives a little subsistence, but no more, to his bastards.

By and by we discoursed of Sir Tho. Clifford, whom I took for a very rich and learned man, and of the great family of that name. He tells me he is only a man of about seven-score pound a year – of little learning, more then the law of a Justice of Peace, which he knows well – a parson's son, got to be Burges in a little borough in the West and there fell into the acquaintance of my Lord Arlington, whose creature he is and never from him. A man of virtue, and comely and good parts enough; and hath come into his place with a great grace, though with a great skip over the heads of a great many, as Chichly and Dunkum and some Lords that did expect it. By the way he tells me that of all the great men of England, there is none that endeavours more to raise those that he takes into favour then my Lord Arlington; and that on that score, he is much more to be made one's patron then my Lord Chancellor, who never did nor will do anything but for money. After having this long discourse, we parted about one of the clock; and in the way met my Lady