

18-19. Called up to the office; and much against my will, I rose, my head akeing mightily – and to the office, where I did argue to good purpose for the King what I have been fitting myself for the last night against Mr. Wood, about his masts; but brought it to no issue. Very full of business till noon, and then with Mr. Coventry to the African house and there fell to my Lord Peterborough's accounts; and by and by to dinner, where excellent discourse – Sir G. Carteret and other of the African Company with us. And then up to the accounts again, which were by and by done; and then I straight home, my head in great pain and drowzy; so after doing a little business at the office and wrote to my father about sending him the mastiffe was given me yesterday, I home and by daylight to bed, about 6 a-clock, and fell to sleep. Wakened about 12 when my wife came to bed, and then to sleep again and so till morning, and then up in good order in my head again; and shaved myself and then to the office, whither Mr. Cutler came and walked and talked with me a great while, and then to the Change together; and it being early, did tell me several excellent examples of men raised upon the Change by their great diligence and saving – as also his own fortune and how Credit grew upon him; that when he was not really worth 1100*l*, he had credit for 10000*l* – of Sir W. Rider, how he ris – and others.

22. This evening came Mr. Alsopp the King's Brewer, with whom I spent an hour talking and bewailing the posture of things at present. The King led away by half a dozen men, that none of his serious servants and friends can come at him. These are Lodderdale, Buckingham, Hamilton, Fitzharding, to whom he hath it seems given 1200*l* per annum too, in the best part of the King's estate and that the old Duke of Buckingham could never get of the King. Projers is another, and Sir H. Bennett. He loves not the Queen at all, but is rather sullen to her; and she by all reports incapable of children. He is fond of the Duke of Monmouth that everybody admires* it; and he says the Duke hath said that he would be the death of any man that says the King was not married to her¹ – though Alsopp says it is well known that she was a common whore when the King lay with her. But it seems, he says, that the King is mighty kind to these his bastard children and at this day will go at midnight to my Lady Castlemaynes nurses and take

1. Monmouth's mother, Lucy Walter.