

the child and dance it in his arms. That he is not likely to have his tables up again in his house,¹ for the crew that are about him will not have him come to common view again, but keep him obscurely among themselves. He hath this night, it seems, ordered that the hall (which there is a ball to be in tonight before the King) be guarded, as the Queen-mother's is, by his Horse Guards; whereas heretofore they were by the Lord Chamberlin or Steward and their people. But it is feared they will reduce all to the soldiery, and all other places taken away. And which is worst of all, that he will alter the present militia and bring all to a flying army. That my Lord Lodderdale, being middleton's enemy and one that scores the Chancellor, even to open affronts before the King, hath got the whole power of Scotland into his hand; whereas the other day he was in a fair way to have had his whole estate and honour and life voted away from him. That all the Court are mad for a Dutch war; but both he and I did concur that it was a thing rather to be dreaded then hoped for – unless, by the French King's falling upon Flanders, they and the Dutch should be divided. That the talk which these people about our King that I named before have, is to tell him how neither privileges of Parliament nor City is anything; but his will is all and ought to be so; and their discourse, it seems, when they are alone, is so base and sordid that it makes the eares of the very gentlemen of back-staires, I think he called them, to tingle to hear it spoke in the King's hearing – and that must be very bad endeed. That my Lord Digby did send to Lisbon a couple of priests to search out what they could against the Chancellor concerning the match, as to the point of his knowing beforehand that she was not capable of bearing children² and that something was given her to make her so. Ireland in a very distracted condition about the hard usage which the protestants meet with, and the too good which the catholiques. And from all together, God knows my heart, I expect nothing but ruin can fallow, unless things are better ordered in a little time.

He being gone, my wife came and told me how kind my uncle Wight hath been to her today also; and that though she sees that all his kindness to us comes from respect to her, she discovers nothing but great civility from him; yet by what she says, he otherwise will

1. sc. will not dine in public in the palace.

2. Clarendon was said to have planned the King's marriage to a barren Princess in the dynastic interest of his daughter, the Duchess of York.