

and power of giving oaths, of all the accounts of the money given and spent for this warr. This hath a most sad face, and will breed very ill blood – he tells me brought in by Sir Robt. Howard, who is one of the King's servants, at least hath a great office and hath got, they say, 20000l since the King came in. Mr. Pierce did also tell me as a great truth, as being told it by Mr. Cowly, who was by and heard it – that Tom Killigrew should publicly tell the King that his matters were coming into a very ill state, but that yet there was a way to help all – which is, says he, “There is a good honest able man that I could name, that if your Majesty would employ and command to see all things well executed, all things would soon be mended; and this is one Charles Stuart – who now spends his time in employing his lips and his prick about the Court, and hath no other imployment. But if you would give him this imployment, he were the fittest man in the world to perform it.” This he says is most true. But the King doth not profit by any of this, but lays all aside and remembers nothing, but to his pleasures again – which is a sorrowful consideration.

I saw smoke in the ruines this very day.

9. *Lords day.* Up, not to church but to my chamber, and there begun to enter into this book my Jou[r]nall of September, which in the Fire time I could not enter here, but in loose papers. At noon dined, and then to my chamber all the afternoon and night, looking over and tearing and burning all the unnecessary letters which I have had upon my File for four or five years backward – which I intend to do quite through all my papers, that I may have nothing by me but what is worth keeping, and fit to be seen if I should miscarry. At this work till midnight, and then to supper and to bed.

12. Up, and to the office, where some accounts of Mr. Gawdens were examined. But I home most of the morning to even some accounts with Sir H. Cholmly – Mr. Moone – and others, one after another. Sir H. Cholmly did with grief tell me how the Parliament hath been told plainly that the King hath been heard to say that he would dissolve them rather then pass this Bill with the Proviso. But tells me that the Proviso is removed, and now carried that it shall be done by a Bill by itself. He tells me how the King hath lately paid above 30000l to clear debts of my Lady Castlemaynes – and that she and her husband are parted for ever, upon good terms, never to trouble one another more. He says that he hears that above 400000l