

and is to publish them) thought of an *avviso al lettore* to prefix to them yet, importing, that if the words 'church,' 'king,' 'religion,' 'ministry,' etc. be found often repeated in this book, they are not to be taken literally but poetically, and as may be most strictly reconcilable to the faith then established—that he knew the author well when he was a young man, and can testify upon the honour of his function, that he said his prayers regularly and devoutly, had a profound reverence for the clergy,⁷ and firmly believed everything that was the fashion in those days?

When you have done impeaching my Lord Lovat,⁸ I hope to hear *de vos nouvelles*, and moreover, whether you have got Colonel Conway yet?⁹ Whether Sir C. Williams is to go to Berlin?¹⁰ What sort of a prince Mitridate may be?¹¹—and whatever other tidings you choose to refresh an anchoret with. *Frattanto* I send you a scene in a tragedy;¹² if it don't

Syngé (d. 1771) succeeded Richard Chenevix (1698–1779) as Bishop of Killaloe on 22 Jan. (Henry Cotton, *Fasti Ecclesiae Hibernicae*, Dublin, 1848–60, i. 132, 470–1).

7. HW's 'Memoirs from the Declaration of the War with Spain' are a violent attack on papists and popes, and also a statement of HW's deistic opinions, derived from Conyers Middleton, the chief influence on HW's thought while he was an undergraduate. Previous to his inoculation with deism, HW had undergone a pietistic phase.

8. Simon Fraser (ca 1667–1747), 11th Bn Lovat, who supported the Young Pretender with large sums of money and his entire clan of '1500 stout men to follow their chief' (GM 1746, xvi. 667). On 17 Dec. the House of Commons sent the articles of impeachment to the House of Lords, where they were read the following day to Lord Lovat. The trial did not begin until 9 March 1747. On 19 March he was condemned to death, and was executed in the Tower 9 April (*Daily Adv.* 18 Dec. 1746; *Trial of Simon, Lord Lovat of the '45*, ed. David N. Mackay, Edinburgh, 1911).

9. Conway, who was aide-de-camp to the Duke of Cumberland, received his commission as colonel of the 48th Regiment of Foot 9 April 1746 (John Chamberlayne, *Magnaë Britanniaë Notitia*, 37th edn, 1748, pt ii, 'General List' 246), and took part in

the battle of Culloden 16 April 1746. After Cumberland's return to London, 25 July, Conway apparently stayed with his regiment in Scotland, suppressing the last of the rebel resistance.

10. Sir Charles Hanbury Williams (1708–59). The report of his going to Berlin, which Gray probably saw in GM for Dec. 1746 (xvi. 668; see also HW to Mann 5 Dec. 1746, O.S.), proved to be false. He did not receive his credentials as envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Frederick II, King of Prussia, until 1 July 1750 (*British Diplomatic Representatives*, ed. D. B. Horn, 1932, p. 107); but on 23 Dec. 1746 he was appointed envoy extraordinary to Dresden (D. B. Horn, *Sir Charles Hanbury Williams*, 1930, p. 15).

11. 'At the King's Theatre in the Haymarket on Saturday next, the 6th instant, will be performed a new opera, called *Mitridate*. With new dances and other decorations. . . . To begin at six o'clock' (*Daily Adv.* 1 Dec. 1746). Text by Apostolo Zeno (1668–1750), court-poet at Vienna 1718–29, and music by Domingo Terradellas (Terradeglias) (1711–51), the Spanish composer, who was in London at the time. Burney's error of 2 for 6 Dec., as the date of the first performance (*Hist. of Music* iv. 455), has been copied in all the reference books.

12. 'The first scene in Mr Gray's unfinished tragedy of Agrippina, published in