

months to the time assigned for the murder. But enough of all this till I see you.

Have you read the two new volumes of Swift?¹¹ The second is the dullest heap of trumpery, flattery, and folly. The first is curious indeed! what a man! what childish, vulgar stuff! what gross language to his goddess!¹² what a curious scene when the ministry thought themselves ruined!¹³ what cowardice in such a bully!¹⁴—then his libels, and his exciting the ministers to punish libels in the same breath!¹⁵—the next moment generous and benevolent. But his great offence with me, is preventing a poor fellow from being pardoned, who was accused of ravishing his own strumpet.¹⁶

I think you will like Sterne's sentimental travels,¹⁷ which though often tiresome, are exceedingly good-natured and picturesque. Good night!

Yours ever

H. W.

PS. I this moment hear that the robbery and setting fire to Mr Con-

fast as he had hoped, being hindered and kept under by the meanes of Sir Richarde Ratcliffe and Sir William Catesby . . . ' (The History of King Richard the Thirde,' *Workes of Sir Thomas More*, 1557, p. 68).

11. *Letters written by the late Jonathan Swift* . . . , ed. Deane Swift of Goodrich, 1768, 2 vols, 4°, published 1 March (*London Chronicle* 25–27 Feb., 27 Feb.–1 March 1768, xxiii. 197, 207). This second series of Swift's letters was added to the quarto edition of the *Works* (1755–79) started by Hawkesworth (see H. Teerink, *Bibliography of . . . Swift*, The Hague, 1937, pp. 84 et seq.). HW's set was sold SH v. 22 and is now WSL.

12. 'Stella' or 'Mrs Johnson'; she was Esther Johnson (1681–1728), whom Swift supposedly married secretly in 1716 (for a summary of this controversial issue see Maxwell B. Gold, *Swift's Marriage to Stella*, Cambridge, 1937).

13. Letter XXXVI (to Stella), 1–15 Dec. 1711 (Swift's *Letters*, quarto edn, vol. iii, 1768, pp. 258–65).

14. 'I have desired him [Erasmus Lewis] to engage Lord Treasurer, that as soon as he finds the change is resolved on, he will send me abroad as Queen's secretary some-

where or other, where I may remain till the new ministers recall me; and then I will be sick for five or six months till the storm has spent itself. . . . I should hardly trust myself to the mercy of my enemies while their anger is fresh' (9 Dec. 1711: *ibid.* 263).

15. 'The pamphleteers begin to be very busy against the ministry: I have begged Mr Secretary [Henry St John] to make examples of one or two of them; and he assures me he will. They are very bold and abusive' (21 Sept. 1711: *ibid.* 215).

16. 'I was this forenoon with Mr Secretary at his office, and helped to hinder a man of his pardon, who is condemned for a rape. The under-secretary was willing to save him, upon an old notion that a woman cannot be ravished: but I told the secretary, he could not pardon him without a favourable report from the judge; besides, he was a fiddler, and consequently a rogue, and deserved hanging for something else; and so he shall swing. . . . 'Tis true, the fellow had lain with her a hundred times before; but what care I for that?' (25 July 1711: *ibid.* 187).

17. Laurence Sterne's *Sentimental Journey* was published 27 Feb. (*Public Advertiser* 12 Feb., 27 Feb. 1768).