

APPENDIX 1: THE NICOLL AFFAIR

WALPOLE'S NARRATIVE

Printed from MS now wsl, who also owns a draft dated 7 August 1751, both in HW's hand. There is another copy, in a clerk's hand, in the possession of C. L. Chute, Esq., of the Vyne, Hants.

A Narrative
of the Proceedings on the intended Marriage
between Lord Orford and Miss Nicholl:¹
in a Letter
addressed to Mrs Harris, my Lord's Grandmother.

Madam,

AS I informed you upon talking over the situation of Lord Orford's affairs, that if you approved it, I believed it would be in my power to bring about a great and very advantageous match for him, which, with great tenderness for him, you seemed extremely to approve: As I had very nearly accomplished so desirable a business; and as it has failed by the means of persons almost as much concerned as myself to promote it; I think it absolutely incumbent upon me to explain to you, Madam, the whole detail of this affair, and to prove to you, that though I have been maliciously, and to serve other purposes, accused of not wishing well to this marriage, the very accusers of me have been the persons who for their own views have defeated this design. Their accusation of me I despise and forgive; the injury they have done Lord Orford is unpardonable.

You will excuse me, Madam, if in unravelling this mystery of double-dealing, I am forced to run into a long detail of many circumstances, which no ways concern you, but are essential to the opening and explaining the whole scheme and management of the illustrious personages concerned in this notable drama.

1. Margaret Nicoll (ca 1735–1768), dau. and heiress of John Nicoll (d. 1747) of Colney Hatch and of Minchenden House, Southgate, Middlesex; m. (1753) James

Brydges (1731–89), styled M. of Carnarvon 1731–71, 3d D. of Chandos 1771 (GEC; G. F. Beltz, *Review of the Chandos Peerage Case*, 1834, pedigree I; GM 1747, xvii. 592).