is comical, the Prince and the Opposition are so too. We have had but one division yet in the House, which was on the Duke of Newcastle's interfering in the Seaforth election.[7] The numbers were 247 for the Court, against 96. But I think it very probable that in a little time a stronger Opposition will be formed, for the Prince has got some new and very able speakers; particularly a young Mr Potter,[8] son of the last Archbishop,[9] who promises very greatly: the world is already matching him against Mr Pitt.

I sent Niccolini the letter; and here is another from him. I have not seen him this winter, nor heard of him: he is of very little consequence, when there is anything else that is.

I have lately had Lady Mary Wortley's eclogues[10] published, but

7. Over the petitions of Lord Middlesex and William Hall Gage 'that at the last election of Barons to serve in this present Parliament . . . on the day before the said election, a noble peer . . . did invite to, and entertain at, his house, most of the voters . . . and did solicit and influence them.' The House, by a division of 247 to 96, refused to hear the petition at the bar of the House (*Journals of the House of Commons* xxv. 429).

8. Thomas [1718–59], son of Dr Potter Archbishop of Canterbury, was appointed secretary to the Princess of Wales, in which post he remained till the death of the Prince [in 1751]: he made two celebrated speeches, on the Seaforth election, and on the contest between Aylesbury and Buckingham for the summer assizes; but did not long support the character here given of him (HW). Potter was M.P. St Germans 1747–54, Aylesbury 1754–7, Okehampton 1757–9, and an associate of Wilkes with whom he collaborated in the 'Essay on Woman' (GRAY i. 20, n. 133). His speech on the motion to postpone the Buckingham Assizes Bill, 6 April 1748 OS, was to have been followed by a seconding speech by HW (ibid. nn. 132, 134). For this bill, see *post* 11 March 1748 OS, n. 28.

9. John Potter (ca 1674–10 Oct. 1747), Bp of Oxford, 1715, Abp of Canterbury, 1737.

10. Some of these eclogues had been printed long before: they were now published with other of her poems by Dodsley in quarto, and soon after with others reprinted in his miscellany (HW). Three eclogues (*Roxana, The Bassette-Table,* and *The Toilette*) were printed 'for J. Roberts,' 26 March 1716 under the title *Court Poems,* the real publisher being probably Edmund Curll (George Sherburn, *Early Career of Alexander Pope,* Oxford, 1934, pp. 167–9, 204). The Dublin edition of 1716 and the London one of 1717 have Pope's name as author. *The Toilette* is by Gay, with 'five or six lines' by Lady Mary (Joseph Spence, *Anecdotes,* ed. S. W. Singer, 1820, p. 292; see also W. H. Irving, *John Gay,* Durham, North Carolina, 1940, pp. 137–9). There were added to the three eclogues three more (*St James's Coffee-House, The Tête à Tête,* and *The Small-Pox*) and also three minor poems (*The Epistle from Arthur Grey, The Lover,* and *The Lady's Resolve*), which were all 'printed for M. Cooper' as *Six Town Eclogues, with Some Other Poems. By the Right Hon. L.M.W.M.,* and published 14 Nov. 1747 (*Daily Adv.* 14 Nov. OS); they were reprinted in Dodsley's *Collection,* Jan. 1748, iii. 274–306 with three additional poems (iii. 306–13), which were *The Epistle to Lord B—t,* the *Epilogue to Mary, Queen of Scots,* and *Receipt to Cure the Vapours.* HW had transcribed the eclogues, *The Epistle from Arthur Grey, The Lover,* and the *Epilogue* from a MS volume of her poems which Lady Mary had showed to him at Florence in 1740 (HW's MS note in his copy of Dodsley's *Collection,* printed in GRAY ii. 38–9, n. 40). See also R. Halsband, 'Pope, Lady Mary, and the *Court Poems*,' *Publications of the Modern Language Association,* 1953, lxviii. 237–50.