

HORACE WALPOLE'S CORRESPONDENCE

To COLE, Friday 26 January 1776

Add MS 5952, ff. 150-1.

This letter, and the copy of HW's letter to Astle, 19 Dec. 1775 (Add MS 5952, ff. 148-9), are in Kirgate's hand.

Address: [From COLE's copy, Add MS 5824, f. 91v.] To the Rev. Mr Cole at Milton near Cambridge. Free T. Caswall. [Timothy Caswall (d. 1802), of Sacombe Park, Herts; M.P. for Hertford 1761-8, and for Brackley, Northants, 1771-89. He is probably the 'Mr Caswall' mentioned frequently in *Paris Jour.* for 1767.]

[Arlington Street, Jan. 26, 1776.]

I HAVE deferred answering your last letter, dear Sir, till I cannot answer with my own hand. I made a pilgrimage at Christmas^t to Queen's Cross at Amptill, was caught there by the snow, imprisoned there for a fortnight, and sent home bound hand and foot by the gout. The pain, I suppose, is quite frozen, for I have had none; nothing but inflammation and swelling, and they abate. In reality, this is owing to the bootikins, which though they do not cure the gout, take out its sting. You, who are still more apt to be an invalid, feel, I fear, this hyperborean season; I should be glad to hear you did not.

I thought I had at once jumped upon a discovery of the subject of the painted room at the Rose Tavern, but shall not plume myself upon my luck till I have seen the chamber, because Mr Gough's account seems to date the style of the painting earlier than will serve my hypothesis. I had no data to go upon but the site having belonged to the family of Tufton (for I do not think the description at all answers to the taking of Francis the First; nor is it at all credible that there should be arms in the painting, and yet neither those of France or Austria) I turned immediately to Lord Thanet's pedigree in Collins's *Peerage*,² and found at once an heroic adventure performed by one of the family,³ that accords remarkably with the principal circumstance. It is the rescue of the Elector Palatine, son of our Queen of Bohemia,⁴ from an ambuscade laid for him by the

1. That is, the first week in January (see HW to Lady Ossory 27 Dec. 1775).

2. See Arthur Collins, *Peerage*, 4th edn, 7 vols, 1768, iii. 276-86.

3. Hon. George Tufton (1650-70), 6th son of John Tufton, 2d E. of Thanet. For an account of his heroism, see *ibid.* 285.

4. Charles Louis (1617-80), Elector Pala-