

over the pew of your family at Linton, and I doubt whether any tomb was ever erected that spoke so much truth of the departed, and flowed from so much sincere friendship in the living. The thought was my own, adopted from the antique columbaria, and applied to Gothic. The execution of the design was Mr Bentley's, who alone of all mankind could unite the grace of Grecian architecture and the irregular lightness and solemnity of Gothic. Kent and many of our builders sought this, but have never found it. Mr Chute, who has as much taste as Mr Bentley, thinks this little sketch, a perfect model. The *soffite* is more beautiful than anything of either style separate. There is a little error in the inscription; it should be, *Horatius Walpole posuit*. The urn is of marble, richly polished; the rest of stone. On the whole I think there is simplicity and decency, with a degree of ornament that destroys neither.

What do you say in Italy on the assassination of the King of Portugal?<sup>2</sup> Do you believe that Portuguese subjects lift their hand against a monarch for gallantry? Do you believe that when a slave murders an absolute prince, he goes a walking with his wife the next morning and murders<sup>3</sup> her too? Do you believe the dead King is alive?<sup>4</sup> and that the Jesuits are as *wrongfully* suspected<sup>5</sup> of this assassination as they have been of many others they have committed? If you do believe this, and all this, you are not very near turning Protestants. It is scarce talked of here, and to save trouble, we admit just what the Portuguese minister<sup>6</sup> is ordered to publish. The King

2. HW describes the attempted assassination at greater length in his letter of 17 Oct. to Lady Hervey and in *Mem. Geo. II* iii. 141; it occurred 3 Sept. 1758 'as he was returning . . . from an affair of gallantry,' but the Portuguese foreign ministers were told to say the king had fallen and hurt his arm (*Mem. Geo. II.*, loc. cit.).

3. This did not prove true (HW). 'It is said the night after this happened, a well-dressed lady was found, with her throat cut, and in several places her face mangled, buried in a dung-hill, at a little distance from the place where his Majesty was assaulted' (*London Chronicle* 7-10 Oct., iv. 346). Probably it was thought that the lady was Dona Leonor de Tavora (1700-59), m. Francisco d'Assis de Tavora (1703-59), Marquês de Tavora

(*O Processo dos Távoras*, ed. Pedro de Azevedo, Lisbon, 1921, *passim*; Marcus Cheke, *Dictator of Portugal*, 1938, pp. 111-29); she and her husband (their daughter-in-law was the King's mistress) were among the chief suspects, and were executed in 1759.

4. 'Other letters from Lisbon advise, that his Portuguese Majesty is actually dead' (*London Chronicle*, loc. cit.). This also was untrue.

5. 'By the Lisbon mail . . . there are some letters, importing that his Portuguese Majesty had discovered a conspiracy against his life, carried on by certain Jesuits' (*ibid.*). Incriminating letters by the Jesuits Malagrida and da Mattos were discovered (Cheke, *op. cit.* 118).

6. Dom Luis da Cunha Manuel (d.