

## APPENDIX 6

### WALPOLE'S ACCOUNTS OF THE COUNT SAINT-GERMAIN

Two extracts from HW's *MS Commonplace Book of Verses*, pp. 48, 50-1. See *ante* iii. 181, n. 29.

#### I

WHEN Count St Germain was taken upon being suspected an agent for the Pretender, and the Duke of Newcastle to excuse it, said he did not know who he was, he replied, 'No my Lord, I suppose your Grace took me for St Germain en Laye.'

#### II

In the year 1743 or thereabouts there came into England a person who called himself Count St Germain, which he owned was not his name, but he never would own what was, nor give any account of himself, nor could it be discovered who he was. He had little or no colour, his hair and beard were extremely black. He dressed magnificently, had several jewels, large remittances, but made no other figure. He had parts, was said to understand the mathematics, had apparently much scholastic knowledge, and was a vehement disputant; but his chief talent was music; he sung in a most agreeable taste, but with little or no voice, composed genteelly, particularly several songs for the operas here, *musique raisonnée*, and played exquisitely on the violin. He had been a great traveller, spoke Italian and French with the greatest facility, though it was evident that neither was his language; he understood Polish, and soon learnt to understand English and talk it a little. He wrote an English song 1748. But Spanish or Portuguese seemed his natural language, and it is probable from all these circumstances that he was a man of quality who had been in or designed for the Church. He was too great a musician not to have been famous if he had not been a gentleman: what makes it more probable that he was a priest, was his professing immaculate chastity, and affirming that he never had felt any sensation of lust; though the intimate manner in which he lived with Lady B. made this very equivocal.