

besides glory and riches they have brought us peace,⁷ I will make a bonfire myself, though it should be in the mayoralty of that virtuous citizen Mr Beckford.⁸ Adieu, Madam!

Your Ladyship's most faithful humble servant,

HOR. WALPOLE

TO LADY HERVEY, Sunday 31 October 1762

Printed from *Works* v. 521; reprinted, Wright iv. 248–9; Cunningham iv. 41; Toynbee v. 270–1.

Strawberry Hill, October 31, 1762.

Madam,

IT is too late, I fear, to attempt acknowledging the honour Madame de Chabot¹ does me;^{1a} and yet, if she is not gone, I would fain not appear ungrateful. I do not know where she lives, or I would not take the liberty again of making your Ladyship my penny-post. If she is gone, you will throw my note² into the fire.

Pray, Madam, blow your nose with a piece of flannel—not that I believe it will do you the least good—but, as all wise folks think it becomes them to recommend nursing and flannelling the gout, I imitate them; and I don't know any other way of lapping it up,

7. The Peace of Paris was not signed until 10 Feb. 1763. One unpopular clause provided for the restoration of Cuba to Spain, which in return ceded Florida to England.

8. William Beckford (1709–70), M. P. Shaftesbury 1747–54, London 1754–70; elected lord mayor of London 29 Sept. 1762; served again as lord mayor 1769–70. Since he had favoured a vigorous prosecution of the war, HW expected him to oppose the Peace, which he did (DNB; GM 1762, xxxii. 499; *Mem. Geo. III* i. 18, 174).

1. 'Lady Mary Chabot, daughter to the Earl of Stafford' (HW). Lady Mary Apollonia Scolastica Stafford-Howard (1721–69), m. (1744) Guy-Auguste de Rohan-Chabot, Comte de Chabot. She was in England on business connected with the death of her

uncle, the 4th E. of Stafford. Lady Hervey spent much of July 1762 'trying both to serve and amuse a lady who is lately come to England on business of some moment to her; from whom I received many civilities at Paris' (Croker, *Letters of Lady Hervey* 287). Later generations of Herveys kept up this friendship with the Chabots, especially in the early 19th century when the Chabots were in exile in England. Letters from them at Ickworth relate only to this later period (information kindly supplied by Mr David Erskine). HW later saw Lady Mary Chabot often in Paris.

1a. Presumably in sending Lady Hervey the note 'thanking her for Mr Walpole's book,' dated 29 Oct. n.y., which was sold at Sotheby's 5 Dec. 1921 (first Waller sale) lot 204 to an unknown purchaser.

2. Missing.