have compounded for a deanery! What trials Lord Sandwich goes through![18]—he had better have one for all.

Friday 9th.

I gave David this letter yesterday, and had forgotten to seal it, which he did not perceive till I was gone out for the evening. Instead of sealing it, he kept it for me till this morning, after I had written my second. I send both to show I had been punctual, though all the novelty is evaporated, and my intelligence is not worth a farthing more than the newspaper.

To Lady Ossory, Friday 9 April 1779

Hitherto printed as part of the letter of 8 April.

April 9, 1779.

LADIES, said a certain philosopher, always tell their minds in the postscript. As that is the habitation of truth, I send you, Madam, a little more truth than there was in my narrative of yesterday, which was warm from the first breath of rumour—yet though this is only a postscript, I will not answer for its perfect veracity. It is the most authentic account I have yet been able to collect of so strange a story, of which no doubt you are curious to know more.

The assassin's name is Hackman; he is brother[1] to a reputable tradesman[2] in Cheapside, and is of a very pleasing figure himself, and most engaging behaviour. About five years ago he was an officer in the 68th[3] regiment,[4] and being quartered at Huntingdon, pleased so much, as to be invited to the oratorios at Hinchinbrook,[5] and

18. Sandwich, in addition to the death of his mistress, was (as first lord of the Admiralty) involved in the trials of Keppel and Palliser. His wife had long been insane.

1. That is, brother-in-law.

2. Frederick Booth, attorney of No. 3 Craven Street in the Strand. Through him Boswell tried unsuccessfully to see Hackman in prison (GM 1779, xlix. 213; *Universal British Directory*, 1791–[1798], i. 371; *Boswell Papers* xiii. 218–41, *passim*; *London Chronicle* 8–13 April, xlv. 340, 347).

3. The words 'in the 68th' are badly blotted; hitherto printed 'in the 66th.'

4. Hackman was ensign in the 68th Foot 20 May 1772, and lieutenant 10 July 1776, but retired from the army at the end of 1776 to prepare himself for the church.

5. Hinchingbrooke, the seat of Lord Sandwich, to the west of Huntingdon. Lord Sandwich was particularly fond of music, and Miss Ray was 'of a remarkable