

regulation, or in fact a memorial,⁴ in which I have positively declared I will not depart from my method. All my mornings are disturbed, and the money I have laid out to make my house agreeable to myself, has almost driven me out of it. Lady Ravensworth on the contrary, if she comes herself, will have the contrary effect, for I will have the honour myself of showing it to her.⁵

Capt. Cooke's voyage⁶ I have neither read nor intend to read. I have seen the prints—a parcel of ugly faces with blubber lips and flat noses, dressed as unbecomingly as if both sexes were ladies of the first fashion; and rows of savages with backgrounds of palm-trees. Indeed I shall not give five guineas and half—nay, they sell already for nine,⁷ for such uncouth lubbers: nor do I desire to know how unpolished the north or south poles have remained ever since Adam and Eve were just such mortals. My brother's death has made me poor,⁸ and I cannot now afford to buy everything I see. It is late to be sure to learn economy, but I must do it, though a little grievous, as I never was able to say the multiplication table—well! before I come to the Rule of Three, it will be all over—and then an obolus will serve to pay the ferry-man—how he will stare if I cry, 'No, stay, I cannot give you that, it is a Queen Anne's farthing!'

I rejoice in Lady Gertrude's recovery, who I really thought looked very ill. I cannot say so of Lord Ossory, and yet I am glad he is better, if he wanted to recover—though he is so healthy, that I believe he only took his anxiety for her for an ague. The young and robust are surprised at any uneasy sensation and conclude it illness. On the contrary we ancient invalids try to persuade ourselves that any cessation of pain promises an entire cure—and so we die, just when we imagine we have taken a new lease.

4. See illustration.

5. Her name is not in HW's 'Book of Visitors' (BERRY ii. 219–52).

6. Cook's third voyage, *A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean . . . In . . . the Resolution and Discovery. In the Years, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779 and 1780*, in 3 vols 'royal quarto' and 1 vol. folio (plates), vols i and ii by Cook, and vol. iii by James King (1750–84), second lieutenant and astronomer on the voyage, who succeeded to the command of the *Discovery* 22 Aug. 1779, on the death of Captain Charles Clerke, and was promoted to captain 3 Oct. 1780. It

was published on Friday, 4 June (*London Chronicle* 22–25 May, lv. 499).

7. The work was published at £4.14s.6d. in boards (*Monthly Review*, June 1784, lxx. 460). 'On the third day after publication, a copy was not to be met with in the hands of the bookseller; and, to our certain knowledge, six, seven, eight, and even ten guineas have since been offered for a set' (*ibid.* 474).

8. HW's income was diminished by £1400 a year. See *post* 18 Jan. 1792; MASON ii. 327–8; GRAY i. 15.