

APPENDIX 10

BALLAD ON MRS STRAWBRIDGE

Printed from HW's autograph in his copy of the 1774 *Des. of SH* (now WSL), facing p. 117.

See *ante* 1 Feb. 1787, ii. 556-7.

Ballad on Mrs Strawbridge

By George Bubb Doddington, afterwards Baron Melcombe

1

Of all the handsome ladies of whom the town does talk,
Who go unto the opera, and in the park do walk,
Though many are the beauties and many who excel,
Yet Strawberry, sweet Strawberry shall bear away the bell.

2

Some cry up Madam Masham for this thing and for that,
And some her Grace of Shrewsbury,¹ though she grows somewhat fat,
And though I like her Majesty,² and all her maidens well,
Yet Strawberry etc.

3

The Kit-Cats and the toasters they do not care a fig
For any other beauty besides the Little Whig;³
But in spite of all Sir Harry that witty knight can say,
Sweet Strawberry, sweet Strawberry shall carry off the day.

4

The redcoats think the Churchills the fairest in the land,
Because the Duke their father the Army does command;
But the noble Duke of Beaufort, who doth all dukes excel,
Saith Strawberry etc.

1. 'Paleotti Dss of Shrewsbury' (HW).

2. 'Queen Anne' (HW).

3. 'Lady Anne Churchill Countess of Sunderland' (HW).