

jugate the American colonies. The *Dictionary of National Biography* says: 'He was by no means so remarkable a man as Walpole makes him out. His personal advantages were great; he was singularly handsome, his voice was sweet, and his manner, though reserved, was gracious. No man of his time was so generally liked. While he was a man of fashion his tastes were cultivated and his habits respectable. In a period marked by political intrigue and corruption he was conspicuous for integrity and a delicate sense of honour. His talents were not brilliant: he lacked decision and insight, and he was easily swayed both by his emotions and his friends. He had not the ability either to form or carry out a plan for himself, and he unconsciously allowed Walpole to use him as a means of gratifying his spite and caprices. . . . Of his personal courage there is no doubt; he was a better soldier than he was a general, a better general than a statesman.' In this correspondence we find the heroic soldier, general, secretary of state and leader of the House of Commons but also a gardener, littérateur, and man about town capable of persiflage, Latin tags, and French grace notes. A letter from Hannah More (now wsl.) that has recently come to light speaks of 'the brilliant society of Field Marshal Conway's house, especially of his and my attached and accomplished friend, Lord Orford.'² The new letters emphasize Conway's dependence on Walpole, such as one from the army in Holland that ends, 'Adieu, dear Horry, do write to me again in pity for I shall be miserably dull soon.'³ The salutations, 'Dear Horry' and 'Dear Harry,' were dropped as time went on, but Conway continued to seek Walpole's opinion on political questions and respected his advice whether he took it or not.

It is fitting to add here that Conway's rôle in carrying out the repeal of the Stamp Act was acknowledged in this country, where the villages of Conway, New Hampshire, and Conway, Massachusetts, were named in his honour. James Otis and Samuel Adams requested his portrait for Faneuil Hall in Boston, and in Philadelphia his health was drunk at the American Philosophical Society along with the healths of Chatham, Burke, and the Duke of Richmond, as Mr Whitfield Bell has kindly informed me.

The fraternal friendship of the cousins underwent a severe trial in 1765. The year before, Walpole demonstrated his passionate loyalty when Conway was turned out of the King's Bedchamber and

2. Hannah More to Sir Alexander Johnston 18 Nov. 1818.

3. Conway to HW 1 Sept. 1748 NS, *post* i. 291.