

FROM LADY AILESBUURY, Sunday 3 November 1751 OS

Printed for the first time from the MS now wsl, formerly Rutnam.

Memoranda (by HW): 34—17—0
 15—15—0
 123—16—6
 4—14—6
 1— 5—0
 180— 8—0

K. Henry
 Williams
 [illegible]

Latimers, November 3, 1751.

Dear Mr Walpole,

I AM vastly obliged to you for your goodness in thinking of me in my distress, which indeed is very great, from this disappointment¹ in regard to Mr Conway's coming home. I believe if circumstances don't alter pretty suddenly in our behalf, which at present I have no reason to expect, I shall be quite determined in a scheme I have formed of going to make him a visit, which I wrote to him some time ago for his approbation of;² I am in hopes from a letter³ I have received from him today that he is by this time diverting himself with fine sights in Italy, which makes me much easier upon his account, as he will be released at least for a time from the

1. From Conway's letter to his brother, Hertford, Florence, 30 Dec. 1751 NS (MS now wsl; printed *Colburn's United Service Magazine*, 1880, lii pt iii. 406-8), replying to a missing one of 18 Nov. OS and a 'former of a much older date,' it is clear that this 'disappointment' related to a regiment for which Conway had asked, but which the D. of Cumberland had indicated he intended to give to Lord Ancram. The specific details are obscure: Conway actually received a regiment of dragoons (the 13th), on 21 Dec. 1751 OS, two months before Ancram succeeded his great-uncle Lord Mark Ker as Colonel of the 11th Dragoons on 15 Feb. 1752 OS. It is possible, however, that Conway had asked for the succession to the 11th Dragoons in the event of Lord Mark Ker's

death, was told that it would be given to Ancram, and then was given the 13th Dragoons when it became available on its colonel's death 12 Nov. 1751 OS (*London Gazette* Nos 9120, 9140, 17-21 Dec. 1751, 11-15 Feb. 1752 OS; *GM* 1751, xxi. 523; Robert Beatson, *Political Index*, 1806, ii. 193-5). The promotion would have enabled Conway to return to England.

2. This projected visit, which did not take place, is discussed in Conway to Hertford, 30 Dec. 1751 NS. Mann heard in late November NS 'that Lady Ailesbury was either at Mahon or to meet Mr Conway at Marseilles or some other place, to make the tour of Italy with him' (MANN iv. 285).

3. Missing.