

perience of it; I left Florence with great regret I assure you, but after staying five weeks instead of five days found it absolutely necessary;⁴ or to abandon all thoughts of Rome, which besides my curiosity for the *Gran' Città* that you know I have long entertained I thought 'twould really be too ridiculous after coming so far and so near it. I saw but little of the Griffoni at Florence and by the little I did see it's a shocking truth, but it must out some time or other, I can't think her handsome; as to agreeable, there are so many tastes, I shall say nothing; to say the truth it is not fair, I saw so little of her, but her sister Antinori⁵ pleased me vastly; she's infinitely agreeable and sensible and for a beauty of that age very handsome. The loves and scandals and odd stories of Florence would fill a volume; there are of all sorts serious and comic; but much more of the latter; it's a scene of cicciship, of intrigue and lewdness beyond anything, in all kinds of people of all orders, ages, and conditions and in all ways.⁶ There's a strange creature, a countryman of ours, one Harper,⁷ brother-in-law to the Rutlands,⁸ an ugly middle-aged man, who is desperately in love with Senator Pucci,⁹ one of his own standing or older; they have such disputes and jealousies and *amantium ira* it's a farce; he has been leaving Florence this year or two but can't quit his dear Senator! The grand flame of Florence is a Madame Acciaiuoli,¹⁰ Mr Pelham's¹¹ flame, a Mr Langley's¹² flame, now a young Floren-

4. Mann told HW 7 Jan. NS that Conway's 'last letters from England made him change the resolution he had taken to stay here some time longer' if he were to visit Rome at all (*ibid.* iv. 295); these were probably the letters Conway mentions below as flattering him 'with a regiment of dragoons and a sudden recall.'

5. Teresa Maria Capponi (1715-55), m. (1734) Senator Vincenzo Antinori (*ibid.* i. 33, n. 6).

6. Conway wrote to his brother shortly before leaving Florence: 'There are but two things at all thought of here—love and antiquities, of which the former predominates so greatly that I think it seems to make the whole history and the whole business of this place, and for a stander-by like me is really a comical scene enough' (30 Dec. 1751 NS, MS now wst.; printed *Colburn's United Service Magazine*, 1880, lii pt iii. 407-8).

7. Probably Edward Harpur (d. 1761), son of Sir John Harpur, 4th Bt (*London*

Magazine, 1761, xxx. 448; William Betham, *Baronetage*, 1801-5, i. 281, 282).

8. Harpur's eldest brother Sir Henry Harpur (?1708-48) 5th Bt, m. (1734) Lady Caroline Manners, half-sister of the 3d D. of Rutland.

9. Probably Lorenzo Orazio Pucci (1694-1764), senator, 1736; he seems to be the only Pucci who was a senator at this time (Pompeo Litta *et al.*, *Famiglie celebri italiane*, Milan, Turin, and Naples, 1819-1923, *sub* Pucci, table vii).

10. Marianna Acciaiuoli (b. 1725), m. (1742) Giacinto Emanuele Acciaiuoli (MANN i. 444, n. 11). Mann mentions her successive affairs at this time in his letter to HW 26 Nov. 1751 NS (*ibid.* iv. 284).

11. Thomas Pelham (1728-1805) of Stanmer, 2d Bn Pelham, 1768; cr. (1801) E. of Chichester; M.P. Rye 1749-54, Sussex 1754-68. For his affair with Mme Acciaiuoli between Feb. and Aug. 1750, see *ibid.* iv. 115-16, 129, 172-3.

12. Mann calls him 'Jacky Langlois'