

tine's one Pecci's,¹³ and soon they say to be another's, and what's particular, perhaps the homeliest young woman in Florence, and there really are many; of beauties I count but four.

I came hither with Lord Stormont, an acquaintance I just began at Paris¹⁴ and improved at Florence and you'll believe I think myself lucky in it when I say he is one [of] the most agreeable young men I have known, both sensible and lively; we have lived together since we came here and shall, I suppose, till we go now; I mean till I go which I expect soon as all my letters flatter me of late with a regiment of dragoons and a sudden recall;¹⁵ though whether I shall be able to obey it immediately I don't know; the weather is so very bad and such colds that I fancy the Alps must be impassable; with all that, you may imagine I shan't be very long in attempting it at least. In the meantime we live here in one perpetual hurry and *giro* enough to turn one's head, three hours every morning for the antiquities and two more for the palaces, pictures, etc.; late dinner, dressing after the opera and company. Here's your old friend the Venetian Ambassadors,¹⁶ as silly and whimsical as ever; we have been at her balls and she insists upon having known me very well in England; she told us last night at the Princess Borghese's¹⁷ that she had miscarried twice by country dances, and lost four children by it so they were both double. At her own t'other night she did not stir till it was just over and then danced forlanas,¹⁸ dragged everybody about the room and made the fiddlers dance with her all round the house. Here's Lord Charlemont¹⁹ here, and Lord Tilney driven hither from

when mentioning him as Pelham's successor with Mme Acciaioli; he was perhaps a younger brother of Christopher Langlois who was in trouble at Florence in 1747 (*ibid.* iii. 366 and n. 3, 374; iv. 284), and perhaps the John Langlois who died in Woodstock Street, Bond Street, in 1789 (*GM* 1789, lix pt i. 182).

13. Mann describes Mme Acciaioli's *cicisbeo* in Nov. 1751 as 'a young Marquis Pucci who succeeded Lord Rockingham with the Siristori' (*MANN* iv. 284). We guess there that this may have been Domenico Pucci, but it is more likely to have been Marchese Orazio Roberto Pucci (1730-1802), nephew of HW's friend Mme Pucci (*Litta*, *op. cit.*, *sub* Pucci, table viii).

14. Conway had mentioned him *ante* 14 July 1751 NS.

15. This was true, although Conway had not yet learned of it officially; see *ante* 3 Nov. 1751 OS and n. 1, *MANN* iv. 297, 299, 304. Conway left Rome for England about 13 Feb. NS (*ibid.* iv. 304; *post* ca 15 Feb. 1752 OS).

16. Mme Capello (*ante* 27 June 1748 OS and n. 9).

17. Agnese Colonna (1702-80), m. (1723) Principe Camillo Borghese, a frequent hostess to visiting English at Rome (*MANN* i. 12, n. 51; *SELWYN* 5, n. 17).

18. Or *furlanas*, an Italian dance in 6-8 or 6-4 time, a favourite with the Venetian gondoliers (Sir George Grove, *Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, ed. Blom, 1954-61, iii. 429).

19. James Caulfeild (1728-99), 4th Vct Charlemont, cr. (1763) E. of Charlemont.