

TO LADY AILESBURY, ca Monday 18 May 1752 OS

Missing; mentioned *post* 9 June 1752 OS as having been received in Dublin 'above a fortnight ago'; it would have taken the letter about a week to reach Ireland.

From CONWAY, Friday 22 May 1752 OS

Printed in full for the first time from the MS now WSL, formerly Rutnam. First printed in part, *Fraser's Magazine*, 1850, xlii. 340.

Memorandum (by HW): One may guess at what people would do if they had some passions, or if they had an opportunity of gratifying their passions, by their manner of correcting or indulging the passions they have or can gratify. Dorinna loves play, and games, for she is rich. She loves eating, and eats excessively, for she has a good cook. She loves drinking and drinks, for she generally sups alone. If she was not hideous, she would be common, for she does love her husband.

Belturbet,¹ May 22d 1752.

I SHOULD have thanked you before for your ready compliance with our parental injunctions but was in such a continual hurry during the few days I stayed in Dublin I had not a moment to command; and now that you have complied and as I have great ambition to see my daughter in a sack and to become a grandfather, I think I may promise you shall have no farther trouble from her parents, for to do you and her justice she has yet made no complaint at all of you either for what you have done or have not, which I don't doubt she would as all modest young ladies do, had there been the least room for it and all the old ladies in town would have whispered it about to their neighbours at church long ago, but on the contrary I now see you settled at Strawberry, you and her and the *boy*² in all sorts of matrimonial comfort and harmony of which I desire you'll wish her joy in my name. I am not vain enough to send you congratulations, though I really flatter myself sometimes she makes a tolerable wife; a little capricious I doubt and subject to humour now and then but agreeable enough in her gayer hours, and even engaging when she pleases. However, to show how disinterested I am in my encomiums, if you don't like her upon trial (what few parents would), on our

1. In co. Cavan on the river Erne.

2. See *ante* 5 May 1752 OS, n. 21.