

## FROM LADY AILESBUURY, December ?1752

An invitation card drawn and designed by Richard Bentley, printed for the first time from the original, now wsl, in *Drawings and Designs by Richard Bentley, Only Son of Dr Bentley, Master of Trinity College Cambridge*, p. 14; see illustration. The date is conjectural; the Monday, 1 Jan., could be in 1753 or 1759. For references to Lady Ailesbury's cards see her letter and Conway's letters of March 1758.

Lady Ailesbury's compliments to Mr Walpole and desires the favour of his company on Monday evening the 1st of January.

## FROM LADY AILESBUURY, Sunday ca 25 March 1753

Printed for the first time from the MS now wsl, formerly Rutnam. Dated by the references to 'Thisbe' and her praying 'that all wicked walls may be cast down' (see below, nn. 2, 3).

*Address:* To Mr Walpole.

Sunday morning.

MISS Rich<sup>1</sup> had asked more company; therefore can't comply with our desire of changing the party. Thisbe<sup>2</sup> bids me tell you that it is her earnest request that you should meet us at Miss Rich's; she is just gone to church to pray that all wicked walls may be cast down.<sup>3</sup>

Ever yours,

C. A.

1. Mary Rich (d. 1769), daughter of Field Marshal Sir Robert Rich; a close friend of the Conways and of HW (MONTAGU ii. 260, n. 11).

2. The Cts of Coventry. Lady Ailesbury humorously nicknames her 'Thisbe' presumably because of her mispronunciation of the name at a private ball recently

held at George Pitt's (see HW to Mann 27 March 1753, MANN iv. 367).

3. Lady Ailesbury is alluding to an incident at the same ball; Lady Coventry, indignant at an allegedly impious remark made by Charles Churchill, HW's brother-in-law, declared that 'she wished the house would fall upon his head' (ibid.).