

supper either tonight or tomorrow, or both. Tonight the Wests² and Miss Rich³ will be here, tomorrow Lady Lyttelton and Ricciarelli;⁴ he insists upon coming, so I am to be taken by surprise after the opera,⁵ and it will be safe to have a relation near. I have just been at the Tower *pour voir les dogues et les ourses*.⁶

Yours,

C. A.

Mr Conway got well to Holyhead.⁷ I have just had a letter from him.⁸

2. Probably some of the children of the 7th Bn (later 1st E.) De la Warr: Hon. John West (1729-77), styled Vct Cantelupe 1761-6, 2d E. De la Warr, 1766; Hon. George West (1733-76), later Conway's aide-de-camp; Hon. (later Lady) Henrietta Cecilia West (1727-1817), m. (1762) Col. (later Gen.) James Johnston, later a close friend of HW and the Conways (*post* 6 Feb. 1764, nn. 41, 44); and Hon. (later Lady) Diana West (1731-66), m. (1756) Gen. John Clavering.

3. Mary Rich, dau. of Sir Robert Rich, 4th Bt, and sister of Lady Lyttelton (*ante* ca 25 March 1753, n. 1). She later lived much of the time with Lady Ailesbury.

4. The 'first man' in the London opera 1754-7, 'a neat and pleasing performer, with a clear, flexible, and silver-toned voice, but so much inferior to Mingotti [the principal woman], both in singing and acting, that he was never in very high favour.' He later sang at Drury Lane 1757-8, and became travelling teacher to Adm. Sir Robert Harland's family, returning with them to England about 1760 as Miss Harland's singing teacher (Charles Burney, *General History of Music*, ed. Mercer, 1935, ii. 853, 856n.; *London Stage Pt IV*, ii. 608). He is probably the Giuseppe Ricciarelli, from Rome, who sang in operas at Venice 1747-9 (Taddeo Wiel,

I teatri musicali veneziani del settecento, Venice, 1897, pp. 165, 169, 172, 175). See also MANN iv. 557; HW to Bentley 19 Oct. 1755, CHUTE 256-7; and Hist. MSS Comm., *Hastings MSS*, 1928-47, iii. 90.

5. The only opera performed during the week in which this letter must have been written was *Ezio*, given at the King's Theatre on 6 and 10 May (*London Stage Pt IV*, i. 485-6).

6. In the menagerie there; for an account of the animals in the Tower see David Henry, *An Historical Description of the Tower of London*, 1778, pp. 12-27; see also OSSORY ii. 197, n. 17; MONTAGU i. 28, n. 17.

7. He was en route to Ireland. HW told Bentley 17 April that Conway and Hartington were going on the 24th (HW to Bentley 13-17 April 1755, CHUTE 220), but they left London the 29th, embarked at Holyhead at 7 A.M. on 4 May and arrived in Dublin on the 5th (*Daily Adv.* 1, 13 May; *London Evening Post* 10-13 May; *ante* 8 May 1755, n. 2). They probably reached Holyhead on the evening of 3 May; a letter from there would hardly have reached London before the 8th or 9th.

8. Missing; probably the 'short letter' mentioned by Conway *ante* 8 May 1755.