

## TO LADY AILESBURY, ca Saturday 20 December 1755

Missing; mentioned *post* 5 Jan. 1756. What are probably memoranda for it are on the MS of *ante* 11 Dec. 1755:

[smell] to Lisbon<sup>1</sup>

H[enry] V[ane] a paymaster<sup>x2</sup>

Lady F. fears wind

Go to Bath for reg. fit of earthq.

Pitt, you don't stay to kiss hands<sup>x3</sup>

Legge on H.W.<sup>x</sup>

1. The *Daily Adv.* 11 Dec. queries, 'Whether the late calamity, which hath happened at Lisbon by the dreadful earthquake, and which hath occasioned the death of so many thousands of people, may not also be the occasion of another as bad, when all the dead bodies, which have lain so long in heaps under the rubbish, come to be found, by the stench and bad smell which may come by their having lain there so long: I mean whether it

may not occasion a sickness, or the plague. . . .'

2. A witticism by George Selwyn (HW to Bentley 17 Dec. 1755, CHUTE 263) on the appointment of Henry Vane (ca 1705-58), 3d Bn Barnard, 1753, cr. (1754) E. of Darlington, as joint paymaster-general of the forces. HW turned it into an epigram (GRAY ii. 87-8; SELWYN 125).

3. A remark made to Pitt by HW; see HW to Bentley 17 Dec. 1755 (CHUTE loc. cit.).