

lapse into politics, has entertained it with a new scene. She was t'other night at the play with her court; viz. Miss Ashe,¹¹ Lord Barnard,¹² Monsieur St Simon,¹³ and her favourite footman Richard, whom, under pretence of keeping places, she always keeps in her box the whole time to see the play at his ease. Mr Stanley,¹⁴ Colonel Vernon,¹⁵ and Mr Vaughan¹⁶ arrived at the very end of the farce, and could find no room, but a row and half in Lady Caroline's box. Richard denied them entrance very impertinently. Mr Stanley took him by the hair of his head, dragged him into the passage, and thrashed him. The heroine was outrageous—the heroes not at all so. She sent Richard to Fielding¹⁷ for a warrant—he would not grant it—and so it ended—and so must I, for here is company. Adieu!

Yours ever,

HOR. WALPOLE

My letter would have been *much cleverer*, but George Montague has been chattering by me the whole time, and insists on my making you his compliments.

From LADY AILESBUURY, Saturday 31 January 1756

Printed from the MS now wsl, formerly Rutnam. First printed, *Fraser's Magazine*, 1850, xli. 279.

Dublin, January 31, 1756.

INDEED, Sir, I can't forgive your sending sheer politics to me¹ and sheer wit to my husband;² but as I flatter myself you are sufficiently punished by my total neglect of you so long, I will now vouch-

11. Elizabeth Ashe, m. 1 (1751, secretly) Edward Wortley Montagu; m. 2 (1761) Robert Faulknor (MONTAGU i. 106, n. 13). See also MANN iv. 140.

12. See *ante* 19 May 1753, n. 10.

13. Probably Maximilien-Henri, Marquis de Saint Simon (1720-99), whom HW met in July 1755, and who consulted him about a translation of Swift's *Tale of a Tub* (HW to Bentley 17 July, 4 Aug. 1755, CHUTE 238-9, 241).

14. Hans Stanley (*ante* 18 July 1744 NS, n. 8).

15. Charles Vernon (1719-1810), Lt-Col. 1753; Maj.-Gen., 1762; Lt-Gen., 1773; Gen., 1783; lieutenant of the Tower of London 1763-1810; M.P. Tamworth 1768-74 (MORE 95, n. 1).

16. Probably Hon. Wilmot Vaughan (ca 1730-1800), 4th Vct Lisburne, 1766; cr. (1776) E. of Lisburne.

17. Sir John Fielding (1721-80), Kt, 1761, the magistrate.

1. HW's missing letter of ca 20 Dec. 1755.
2. *Ante* 22 Jan. 1756.