

FROM LADY AILESBUURY, Tuesday 15 June 1756

Printed for the first time from the MS now wsl, formerly Rutnam.

Memoranda (by HW, the first four lines crossed out):

Wrote on Thursd. [?17 June 1756]

D. of B[edford]

Murray [Lord Mansfield]

Ld Fred Cavendish [see *post* 11 Aug. 1757, n. 5]

[Henry Bilson] Legge and Ch[arles] Townsh[end]

75

Mr Muntz¹

Prestage [see below, n. 5]

Paper Dodsley²

Squawking

C'est si bien decrotté

Ly Ailesb[ury]

Mrs [John] Harris

[Thomas] Brand [see *post* 6 July 1756 and n. 10]

[Pencil drawings]

Park Place, June 15, 1756.

I SEE in the *Advertiser*³ that there is going to be an auction of Mr Pestre's⁴ furniture, which, if it really is his, as Mr Prestage⁵ assures us, I imagine there must be some good things amongst it; what I am in great want of is a sideboard table, something pretty near six foot long; as it is for Park Place nothing very fine is required. As you sometimes go to auctions, if you should happen to go to this and see anything of this kind, I should be vastly obliged to

1. Johann Heinrich Müntz (1727-98), painter, at this time living with HW (MANN iv. 554; MONTAGU i. 190-2).

2. Robert Dodsley (1703-64), bookseller, whom HW may have asked about wall-paper (see *post* 2 Sept. 1756, n. 12).

3. The *Daily Advertiser*, which since 8 June had been carrying an advertisement 'To be sold at auction by Mr Prestage, on Wednesday the 23d instant, and the following days, the genuine and rich

household furniture, sideboard of plate, and wardrobe of linen, of John de Pestere, Esq.' followed by a description of some of the items.

4. John de Pestere, a cousin of the Cts of Denbigh. Lady Bolingbroke referred to his house in Hanover Square as a 'petit palais' in 1744 (Hist. MSS Comm., *Denbigh MSS*, 1911, pp. 139, 344).

5. (d. 1767), auctioneer (GM 1767, xxxvii. 430).