

chester.¹¹ Never was such a collection of roots and branches.¹² You were accused this morning at the public breakfast of dreading our number; I knew how truly and could only say that as I knew you liked all the family or families and persons separately you should naturally like them collectively; the reasoning and conclusion were false and Lady Caroline Fox intends to tell you so.

I think you'd make a very good figure amongst us *boys and girls*. You love romping and all the *aimables folies* just as one should love 'em as long as one lives, and are one of those pleasant creatures *whose follies please*,¹³ as well as their wit.

Adieu, I have no time nor humour for politics, and feel just now as if I did not care an halfpenny who won or lost, battles or ministries. I must not say so to everybody here.¹⁴ Let me know when we shall see you.

Yours ever,

H. S. C.

FROM LADY AILESURY, Friday 3 June 1757

Printed for the first time from the MS now wsl, formerly Rutnam. Dated by the reference to the eggs, also mentioned *post* 9 and 16 June 1757; the mention of 'the rains' indicates that it was written on Friday 3 June rather than Friday 10 June, since this temporary break in the drought is also mentioned in Montagu to HW ca 29 May and HW to Montagu 2 June (MONTAGU i. 209, 210).

Address: To the Honourable Horatio Walpole at his house in Arlington Street, London.

Park Place, Friday morn.

I AM vastly obliged to you, and Lord Orford, for the eggs¹ and beg you will send them to my porter, who will take care to convey them safe to me. We wish much to see you here, and if you could

11. Hon. Henrietta Seymour Conway, Conway's half-sister (*ante* 29 Aug. 1746 OS, n. 3).

12. Henry Fox wrote to Lord George Lennox on the 27th: 'I am within this hour setting out for Goodwood, which is fully furnished now, for there are Lady Albemarle and her daughters, all your sisters and their children, Mr Conway and Lady Ailsbury, and will be tomorrow morning my brother and myself' (Hist. MSS Comm., *Bathurst MSS*, 1923, p. 679).

13. 'Whom folly pleases, and whose follies please,' the concluding line (327) of Pope's *Second Epistle of the Second Book of Horace Imitated*.

14. Especially to Henry Fox, who was at this time deeply involved in the attempts to form a new ministry (MANN v. 91-3; Lord Ilchester, *Henry Fox*, 1920, ii. 50-2).

1. Presumably plovers' eggs; see MANN ix. 143.