

suppose, that we should spoil the project by wilful delays:⁵ I believe it made Sir John,⁶ who had half embarked the troops with very particular dispatch, a little peevish, *comme de raison*.⁷ I heartily wish you and I, for I find we think alike, may be much disappointed; and remain, my dear Horry,

Most affectionately yours.

TO LADY AILESBURY, ca Wednesday 14 September 1757

Missing; implied *post* 16 Sept. 1757.

FROM LADY AILESBURY, Friday 16 September 1757

Printed for the first time from the MS now wsl, formerly Rutnam. The year has been added by HW.

Park Place. September 16, '57.

Dear Mr Walpole

I CAN never think you either troublesome, or neglectful of me. If I could I should be the most ungrateful creature in the world! I shall be very glad to see you here, since you are so good as to offer to come,¹ for besides the pleasure I always have in seeing you,

daunt and Hawke, dated 4 P.M. 5 Sept. and received very early the following morning, saying 'that his Majesty expects, with impatience, to hear that the troops are embarked; but if, by any delay, the embarkation should not be completed, when this letter reaches you, I am to signify to you the King's pleasure, that the most particular diligence be employed in getting the troops on board, and proceeding without the loss of a moment to the execution of your orders and instructions. . . . The King expects to hear by the return of this messenger that the fleet . . . with the troops on board have proceeded to sea' (*Report of the General Officers*, pp. 94-5).

5. Pitt was already suspicious of the land officers, and according to Newcastle, of the sea officers, too ('Business with

Lord Mansfield' 7 Sept., BM Add. MSS 32997, f. 257).

6. Sir John Mordaunt (1697-1780); K.B., 1749; Lt-Gen., 1754; Gen. 1770; M.P. Pontefract 1730-4, Whitchurch 1735-41, Cockermouth 1741-68; commander-in-chief of the land-forces on the expedition.

7. Mordaunt's reply 6 Sept. to Pitt's letter, somewhat sharp in tone, is in *Report of the General Officers*, p. 97; it reaffirms the embarkation of half of the troops on the 5th (above, n. 1).

1. HW apparently visited Lady Ailesbury about this time; he mentions being with her in Conway's absence to Mann on 20 Nov. and relates an anecdote he learned there about Conway's departure (MANN v. 155).