

truth that, very oddly, pray let this be for yourself. When I see you, I'll tell you the whole, by which you'll see how tender one must be in speaking, as it's almost impossible not to hurt those I esteem very much, and who have acted though not exactly as I should I dare say, as prudently and as conscientiously.⁸

Yours, my dear Horry, most truly,

H. S. C.

From LADY AILESBUURY, Sunday 2 October 1757

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Park Place, October 2, 1757.

I AM very well pleased with my extravagant steward's proceedings,¹ and am in constant expectation of the blue-coat boys² coming post to give me notice of a great prize. I intend to be very generous upon the occasion, and have settled the sum I shall give them.

The post is again come in without a letter from Mr Conway,³ or a word of news, which surprises and frights me excessively. I beg to know what you imagine can be the reason of this? This is the fourth day that the wind has been to the northwest,⁴ which increases my fears.

one that can be constructed from the records. However, according to Hawke, Conway had initially joined with Mordaunt, while the fleet was still at sea, in urging that no attempt of any sort be made (to Pitt, 21 Oct., quoted J. S. Corbett, *England in the Seven Years' War*, 1907, i. 209-10).

8. Conway wrote to Hertford in very similar terms at the same time: 'I have taken much pains to prevent it [the return] and had once prevailed so far as you have heard, but even that so heavily and in such disagreeable way as you'll scarce believe when you hear it. You must be tender what you say, for I dread hurting anybody, especially those I have very great regard for and who have acted I am

sure as conscientiously as I could, tho' not in the same manner.'

1. Apparently HW had arranged to send a special messenger to Park Place with any news of the expedition, as he later did (*post* 7 Oct. 1757).

2. Although 'blue-coat boy' means commonly a scholar of Christ's Hospital in London, here blue-jackets are doubtless what are meant, since Conway's rank would entitle him to this special attention. HW refers to 'blue-coat boys' in a letter to Lincoln (SELWYN 26).

3. Conway's letters were probably held up by the Post Office (*post* 8 Oct. 1757, n. 6).

4. Which would hamper the return of the fleet.