

Miss Rich desires her compliments to you and is much better.

I am, dear Mr Walpole, sincerely yours,

C. AILESBUURY

TO LADY AILESBUURY, ca Wednesday 5 October 1757

Missing; answered *post* 6 Oct. 1757.

FROM LADY AILESBUURY, Thursday 6 October 1757

Printed for the first time from the MS now wsl, formerly Rutnam. The year is supplied by the references to the Rochefort expedition.

Park Place, October the 6th.

Dear Mr Walpole,

I CANNOT express the strong sense I have of your kindness to me and Mr Conway; hearing from you is really a great comfort to me, and though the news in your last filled me with many fears,<sup>1</sup> I might perhaps have had more of my own making; it appears very strange to me, that if the island of Aix was taken on the 20th or even on the 23d we should not have had news of their further progress, or retreat, as I should imagine they could not spend much time in deliberation, without they had changed their first resolution of surprising the place. What I dread is, that the ministry may

1. HW had presumably reported the first, indirect, accounts of the expedition to reach London. The earliest, in 'letters from Dunkirk by the Flanders mail,' which may have arrived on the 4th, said that the fleet had anchored off the Ile de Ré on the 21st and that the troops had landed on the 'Isle of Dain' on the 23d (*Daily Adv.* 5 Oct.). Further information arrived from Holland on the 5th. Col. Yorke sent letters from France saying that the troops 'were put in shore three leagues below Rochefort' and containing enough other information to enable Pitt to write on the afternoon of the 5th of 'the promising aspect of our expedition to the coast of

France' (Holderness to Newcastle 5 Oct., Pitt to Newcastle, Wednesday [5 Oct.], BM Add. MSS 32874, ff. 452, 454). Still other information indicated that the troops had landed on the Ile d'Aix, had met with no opposition, and had successfully moved on to the mainland (*Grenville Papers* i. 210-11). Direct reports from the expedition were not received in London until the 6th; although these told the whole history down to the decision to return to England, at first nothing more was generally known than that the Ile d'Aix had been taken, and a false report that Rochefort itself had been captured (SELWYN 139; *Daily Adv.* 7 Oct.).