

# HORACE WALPOLE'S CORRESPONDENCE

To CONWAY, Friday 19 January 1759

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Arlington Street, January 19, 1759.

I HOPE the Treaty of Sluys advances rapidly.<sup>1</sup> Considering that your own court is as new to you as Monsieur de Bareil<sup>2</sup> and his, you cannot be very well entertained: the joys of a Dutch fishing town and the incidents of a cartel will not compose a very agreeable history. In the meantime you do not lose much: though the Parliament is met,<sup>3</sup> no politics are come to town: one may describe the House of Commons like the price of stocks: debates, nothing done. Votes, under par. Patriots, no price. Oratory, book shut. Love and war are as much at a stand: neither the Duchess of Hamilton<sup>4</sup> nor the expeditions are gone off yet.<sup>5</sup> Prince Edward<sup>6</sup> has asked to go to Quebec, and has been refused.<sup>7</sup> If I was sure they would refuse me, I would ask to go thither too. I should not dislike about as much laurel as I could stick in my window at Christmas.

We are next week to have a serenata at the Opera House for the King of Prussia's birthday:<sup>8</sup> it is to begin, *Viva Georgio, e Federigo viva!* It will, I own, divert me to see my Lord Temple whispering for this alliance,<sup>9</sup> on the same bench on which I have so often seen

1. Mr Conway was sent to Sluys to settle a cartel for prisoners with the French. Monsieur de Bareil was the person appointed by the French Court for the same business (HW); see *ante* 10 Dec. 1758, n. 1; *post* 21 Jan. 1759, n. 13, 28 Jan. *bis*, n. 6.

2. Louis-Jacques-Charles (ca 1709-73), Marquis du Barail; Brig-Gen. 1744; *maréchal de camp*, 1748; Gov. of Dunkirk, 1754; Lt-Gen., 18 Dec. 1758 (*Répertoire . . . de la Gazette de France*, ed. de Granges de Surgères, 1902-6, ii. 239; [Ludovic], *Comte de Colleville* and F. Saint-Christo, *Les Ordres du roi*, [1925], p. 265; *Mercure de France* Feb. 1759, i. 209).

3. On 16 Jan.

4. Elizabeth Gunning, Duchess dowager of Hamilton (HW).

5. The expedition to Quebec did not leave until 13 Feb. (MANN v. 266).

6. Afterwards created Duke of York (HW).

7. HW also mentions this to Mann 9 Feb. (MANN v. 267).

8. 'We hear that there is now in rehearsal, and will soon be exhibited at the King's Theatre in the Haymarket, a grand musical entertainment (with dances, scenes, and other proper decorations) the chief subject of which is to celebrate the glorious alliance between Great Britain and Prussia; and the happy effects which are naturally expected to accrue from thence, to the liberties of Europe' (*Daily Adv.* 18 Jan.). The entertainment, entitled *Il Tempio della Gloria*, by Gioacchino Cocchi (ca 1715-1804), was first performed on 31 Jan. and repeated 20 Feb. (*ibid.* 31 Jan., 20 Feb.); HW describes it to Chute 1 Feb. (CHUTE 105-6 and n. 8).

9. With Prussia. Temple had long been in opposition, but was Privy Seal in the present administration.