

man! his life has paid the price of his injustice; and as his death has purchased such benefit to his country, I lament him,<sup>14</sup> as I am sure you, who have twenty times more courage and good nature than I have, do too. In short, I, who never did anything right or prudent myself (not, I am afraid, for want of knowing what was so), am content with *your* being perfect, and with suggesting anything to you that may tend to keeping you so:—and (what is not much to the present purpose) if such a pen as mine can effect it, the world hereafter shall know that you was so. In short, I have pulled down my Lord Falkland,<sup>15</sup> and I desire you will take care that I may speak truth when I erect you in his place; for remember, I love truth even better than I love you. I always confess my own faults, and I will not palliate yours.—But, laughing apart, if you think there is no weight in what I say, I shall gladly meet you at Park Place, whither I shall go on Monday, and stay as long as I can, unless I hear from you to the contrary. If you should think I have hinted anything to you of consequence, would not it be handsome, if, after receiving leave, you should write to my Lord Ligonier, that though you had been at home but one week in the whole summer, yet as there might be occasion for your presence in the camp,<sup>16</sup> you should decline the

Wolfe's letter is based on passages at the beginning and end of the printed version. In the second paragraph Wolfe wrote that Quebec was so strongly reinforced that 'I could not flatter myself that I should be able to reduce the place.' In the conclusion he wrote: 'In this situation, there is such a choice of difficulties, that I own myself at a loss how to determine. The affairs of Great Britain, I know, require the most vigorous measures; but then the courage of a handful of brave men should be exerted only, where there is some hope of a favourable event. However, you may be assured, Sir, that the small part of the campaign which remains, shall be employed (as far as I am able) for the honour of his Majesty and the interest of the nation' (*London Gazette Extraordinary* 16 Oct.). HW also comments on Wolfe's letter in *Mem. Geo. II* iii. 217-19.

14. HW gives a graphic and sympathetic account of Wolfe's death, *ibid.* iii. 221-2.

15. Lucius Carey (1610-43), 2d Vct of

Falkland. He was generally much admired for probity and nobility of character, but HW had written of him in the *Royal and Noble Authors*: 'There never was a stronger instance of what the magic of words and the art of an historian can effect, than in the character of this Lord, who seems to have been a virtuous well-meaning man with a moderate understanding, who got knocked on the head early in the Civil War, because it boded ill: and yet by the happy solemnity of my Lord Clarendon's diction, Lord Falkland is the favourite personage of that noble work. . . . Not to descant too long; it is evident to me that this Lord had much debility of mind and a kind of superstitious scruples, that might flow from an excellent heart, but by no means from a solid understanding' (*Works* i. 501-2). HW's character of him was much criticized; see HW to Hume 15 July 1758; MORE 200-1.

16. Mr Conway was encamped in Kent near Canterbury (HW); see *ante* 18 July