

permission he had given you?—See what it is to have a wise relation, who preaches a thousand fine things to you which he would be the last man in the world to practise himself. Adieu!

Yours ever,

HOR. WALPOLE

TO LADY AILESBUURY, Saturday 29 December 1759

Printed from a photostat of the MS, now in the Scottish Record Office. First printed Coke, *Journals*, iii. pp. ix–x; also printed Toynbee iv. 336–8. The MS was among the papers of Charles H. Drummond Moray, of Abercairny, Crieff, Perthshire at the time of his death in 1891 (see MORE xiii–xiv).

Arlington Street, Dec. 29, 1759.

YOU laughed, my Lady, at my telling Prince Edward, that I should marry Lady Mary Coke, as soon as I got a regiment,¹ but the affair was more serious than you imagined. As Mr Pitt lets everybody raise a regiment that desires it, and as there certainly is nothing left for these regiments to do, I intend to offer my services too. The Clan of the Campbells² to be sure will flock to my standard, and being of a very huckaback³ complexion, I shall not be often put to the expense of levy money. I should have chosen to call it the Regiment of Loo, and to have dressed them like Pam,⁴ but Lord Pultney⁵ has already anticipated the thought of accoutring his men like the knave of clubs; and at present I have no fixed design for any distinction; but

1759, n. 4; *London Chronicle* 6–8 Nov., vi. 442, which implies that Conway's regiment was quartered at 'Brentford, Hounslow, etc.'

1. HW writes of this incident to Montagu 23 Dec. 1759 (MONTAGU i. 264 and n. 11). HW's letter to Lady Mary Coke 27 Dec. 1759, enclosing his petition to Pitt, imputes his military zeal to his passion for her; see MORE 14–15 and n. 1.

2. Lady Ailesbury and Lady Mary Coke were Campbells; see CHUTE 297 and n. 9; *ante* 18 July, 14 Oct. 1759.

3. Durable, 'that will stand wear and tear' (OED, which quotes HW to Strafford

30 Oct. 1759 and to Cole 9 March 1765 [CHUTE, loc. cit.; COLE i. 90]).

4. 'The knave of clubs, esp. in the game of five-card loo, in which this card is the highest trump' (OED).

5. Who in July was appointed Lt-Col. of a regiment to be raised in Wales; it became the 85th Foot, Craufurd's Royal Volunteers (MANN v. 311 and nn. 3, 4; *Army Lists* 1760, p. 143). Conway wrote the D. of Devonshire 26 July, 'I hear Lord Pultney is raising a regiment; I can't say I approve of *regiments* or approve of them much the least of all augmentations' (Chatsworth MSS, 416/60).