

as Colonel Hale⁶ has a death's-head⁷ for his pompon, I propose to take a strawberry. In the meantime I have drawn up a petition, but as I am not used to those sort of things, if Mr Frederic⁸ is with you, I should be glad if he would correct it, and stick in a few law terms to give it more the air of a formal memorial: here it is;

To Mr Pitt.⁹

To raise a troop a thousand ask;
 To please 'em all how hard the task!
 For whether they are Whig or Tory,
 You've vow'd (a thing unheard in story)
 To grant what's ask'd for England's glory.
 I too, Sir, on great actions bent,
 Propose to raise a regiment;
 But as my glowing breast, like yours,
 Abhors all martial sinecures,
 If but a troop or company,
 In the French service let it be;
 For you, Engrosser, have no longer
 Left Britons anything to conquer.

This, I think, can't fail—but if it should, you know, Madam, I have one or two places, that I can resign, and the worst that can happen is to have them again, with the Garter into the bargain.¹⁰ It is true, I am very lean, and a blue ribband will not become me much, but

6. John Hale (d. 1806), 4th son of Sir Bernard Hale, m. (1763) Mary, dau. of William Chaloner, Esq. of Guisborough, Yorks; Capt., 1752, Maj., 1755, and Lt-Col., 1758 in the 47th Foot. In Oct. 1759 he volunteered to raise a regiment of the footmen and chairmen of London and to lead them against the best household troops of France; in Nov. he became Lt-Col. Commandant of the 18th (later 17th) regiment of Light Dragoons with the badge of 'Death's Head' and the motto 'Or Glory' underneath ([R. Cannon], *Historical Record of the Seventeenth Regiment of Light Dragoons*;—*Lancers*, 1841, pp. 10–11, 14, 75–7; J. W. Fortescue, *A History of the British Army*, 1910–30, ii. 509–10; *Mem. Geo. II* iii. 234–5; Sir Ber-

nard Burke, *Landed Gentry*, 1925, p. 814; DNB *sub* Sir Bernard Hale; GM 1759, xxix. 95, 496, 607). He was later Gov. of Limerick, 1770, Maj.-Gen., 1772, Lt-Gen., 1777, and Gen., 1793.

7. Described in the *London Chronicle* 17–20 Nov., vi. 486.

8. Lord Frederick Campbell, Lady Ailesbury's brother and a lawyer (Namier and Brooke ii. 182).

9. See *Horace Walpole's Fugitive Verses*, ed. W. S. Lewis, 1931, pp. 128–31.

10. Alluding to Lord Temple's resignation of the Privy Seal and request for the Garter; HW describes this to Mann 16 Nov. 1759 (MANN v. 345–6). For HW's 'places' see MORE 14, n. 3.