

Wentworth Castle, Sunday night.

I had writ thus far yesterday, but had no opportunity of sending my letter. I arrived here last night, and found only the Duke of Devonshire who went to Hardwicke⁷ this morning; they were down at the menagerie, and there was a clean little pullet, with which I thought his Grace looked as if he should be glad to eat a slice of Whichnovre bacon. We follow him to Chatsworth⁸ tomorrow, and make our entry to the Public Dinner,⁹ to the disagreeableness of which I fear even Lady Mary's¹⁰ company will not reconcile me.

My Gothic building,¹¹ which my Lord Strafford has executed in the menagerie, has a charming effect. There are two bridges built besides;¹² but the new front is very little advanced.¹³ Adieu! Madam,

Your most affectionate evidence,

HOR. WALPOLE

TO CONWAY, ?Monday ?8 ?September ?1760

Printed from *Works* v. 70. This letter is placed in *Works* immediately after HW's letter of 19 Sept. 1760, but seems to belong at the beginning of Conway's period of waiting as a groom of the Bedchamber. In refusing the D. of Devonshire's invitation to Chatsworth, Conway wrote 14 Aug., 'Both Lady A. and I are extremely unhappy the north does not lie within our reach for this year. We have promised my brother a short and it must be a very short visit at Ragley after which the necessary duty of my military employment carries me into Kent and Essex which will take me up till the return of my waiting on the 7th of next month' (Chatsworth MSS, 416/64). Under Chatham, 3 Sept., the *Daily Adv.* 5 Sept. reported, 'This morning the two regiments encamped here were reviewed by General Conway, who afterwards set out for Barham Downs.' Since Conway

7. Hardwick Hall, which HW visited, and did not admire, on his return to London. See MONTAGU i. 296-8; *Country Seats* 29-30.

8. This was HW's first visit to Chatsworth, where he stayed four days. See MONTAGU i. 295-6; *Country Seats* 28-9.

9. In *ibid.* 29 HW mentions that 'the Duke of Devonshire keeps two public days in a week,' when he apparently entertained the families of the neighbourhood.

10. Lady Mary Coke.

11. In his notes on this visit to Wentworth Castle, *ibid.* 28, HW mentions 'a Gothic building in the menagerie, proposed by me and drawn by Mr Bentley, on the idea of Chichester Cross; built by this Lord.' See also HW to Bentley Aug. 1756 (CHUTE 266-7) and HW to Montagu 1 Sept. 1760 (MONTAGU i. 295 and n. 15).

12. These are also mentioned in *Country Seats* 28.

13. HW mentions this as 'begun,' *ibid.*