

TO CONWAY, Friday 19 September 1760

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Strawberry Hill, September 19, 1760.

THANK you for your notice, though I should certainly have contrived to see you without it. Your brother promised he would come and dine here one day with you and Lord Beauchamp. I go to Navestock¹ on Monday, for two or three days; but that will not exhaust your waiting.² I shall be in town on Sunday; but as that is a Court day, I will not, so don't propose it—dine with you at Kensington; but I will be with my Lady Hertford about six, where your brother and you will find me if you please. I cannot come to Kensington in the evening, for I have but one pair of horses in the world, and they will have to carry me to town in the morning.

I wonder the King expects a battle; when Prince Ferdinand can do as well without fighting, why should he fight? Can't he make the Hereditary Prince gallop into a mob of Frenchmen, and get a scratch on the nose;³ and Johnson⁴ straddle cross a river and come back with six heads of hussars in his fob, and then can't he thank all the world, and assure them he shall never forget the victory they have not gained? These thanks are sent over:⁵ the *Gazette* swears that this no-success was chiefly owing to General Mostyn;⁶ and the *Chronicle* protests, that it was achieved by my Lord Granby's losing his hat,⁷ which he never wears; and then his Lordship sends over for

1. Lord Waldegrave's seat in Essex.

2. Mr Conway was a groom of the Bed-chamber to the King, and then in waiting at Kensington (HW). His waiting began 7 Sept.; see headnote, *ante* 78 ?Sept. ?1760.

3. The Hereditary Prince had been slightly wounded at Corbach on 10 July.

4. James Johnston (ca 1721–97), at this time Lt-Col. commanding the 1st Dragoons; Lt-Gen., 1777; Gen., 1793; Lt-Gov. of Minorca 1763–74; Gov. of Quebec, 1774 (MONTAGU i. 28, n. 19). The praise of him in Prince Ferdinand's order of thanks after the battle of Warburg (below, n. 5) had provided HW, Conway, and Lady Ailesbury with a subject about which to tease his fiancée, the Hon. (later Lady) Henrietta Cecilia West (CHUTE 305).

5. Prince Ferdinand's orders of thanks, dated 1 Aug., to the officers engaged in

the battle of Warburg 31 July, were printed in the *London Chronicle* 28–30 Aug., viii. 216 and in the *Daily Adv.* 1 Sept.

6. John Mostyn (1709–79), Col. 5th Dragoons 1758–60, 7th Dragoons 1760–3, 1st Dragoon Guards 1763–79; Maj.-Gen., 1757; Lt-Gen., 1759; Gen., 1772; M.P.; commander of the British cavalry in Germany 1759–62 and acting commander of all British forces during the winter of 1759–60. The *London Gazette* No. 10024, 5–9 Aug., printed Granby's letter to Holderness of 1 Aug. crediting Mostyn with the cavalry's success at Warburg.

7. The *London Chronicle* 19–21 Aug. (viii. 184) reported 'that in the affair of the 31st, the Marquis of Granby, having dropt his hat, broke the French lines three times bareheaded'; and in the issue for 13–16 Sept. (viii. 266) printed an ode