

three hundred thousand pints of porter to drink his own health;⁸ and then Mr Pitt determines to carry on the war for another year; and then the Duke of Newcastle hopes that we shall be beat, that he may lay the blame on Mr Pitt, and that then he shall be minister for 30 years longer; and then we shall be the greatest nation in the universe. Amen!—My dear Harry, you see how easy it is to be a hero. If you had but taken Impudence and Oatlands⁹ in your way to Rochfort, it would not have signified whether you had taken Rochfort or not. Adieu! I don't know who Lady A.'s Mr Alexander¹⁰ is.—If she curls like a vine with any Mr Alexander but you, I hope my Lady Coventry will recover¹¹ and be your Roxana.

Yours ever,

HOR. WALPOLE

FROM HERTFORD, Thursday 25 September 1760

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London, September 25th 1760.

Dear Horry,

I HAVE spoke to Lady Yarmouth as you desired me and she has most readily undertaken to obtain the King's consent for Lady Hervey's going through St James's Park.¹ No more time will be taken about it than what is necessary in form, as his Majesty signs his name to these things it seems; her Ladyship will speak tomorrow, makes no doubt about its being granted, and desired me to say

'On the Marquis of Granby's losing his Hat, and charging the French Lines bare-headed.'

8. The previous year the *London Chronicle* (17–20 Nov. 1759, vi. 486) reported, 'It is said the Hon. the Marquis of Granby has ordered some thousand barrels of porter to be sent to the army in Germany at his own expense, for the use of the private men.' A similar report after the battle of Warburg has not been found; see also W. E. Manners, *Some Account of the . . . Marquis of Granby*, 1899, p. 143.

9. Oatlands Park, Weybridge, Surrey. It belonged to the D. of Newcastle (though

it was occupied at this time by his nephew, Lord Lincoln).

10. Perhaps the same 'Mr Alexander' who is listed on the cover, *post* 20 July 1761 *bis*.

11. She died 30 Sept. of a combination of tuberculosis and white lead poisoning.

1. The park was open to all for walking, but special permission from the King was necessary for driving there (Hon. Mrs Evelyn Cecil, *London Parks and Gardens*, 1907, pp. 71–2). HW's suit for Lady Hervey was granted promptly; see HW to Montagu 14 Oct. 1760, MONTAGU i. 305.