

would say,⁵ that Lady Mary Coke, like Venus, smiled over the waves, *et mare præstabat eunti*.⁶ In truth, when she could tame me, she must have had little trouble with the ocean. Tell me how many burgomasters she has subdued, or how many would have fallen in love with her if they had not fallen asleep? Come, has she saved twopence by her charms?⁷ Have they abated a farthing of their impositions for her being handsomer than anything in the seven provinces? Does she know how political her journey is thought? Nay, my Lady A., you are not out of the scrape; you are both reckoned *des Maréchaux de Guébriant*,⁸ going to fetch, and *consequently* govern the young Queen.⁹ There are more jealousies about your voyage, than the Duke of Newcastle would feel if Dr Shaw¹⁰ had prescribed a little ipecacuanha¹¹ to my Lord Bute.¹²

again' (Chatsworth MSS, 416/65). From The Hague he wrote 10 April 'that by Lord Granby's arrival here, we are now determined upon our journey forward and shall set out in a day or two: I mean Lord Frederick [Cavendish] and I, leaving the ladies behind us' (ibid. 416/66). He left The Hague for Paderborn 14 April (GM 1761, xxxi. 186; *London Chronicle* 21-3 April, ix. 385).

5. HW often ridicules Lyttelton's pompous style (e.g., *post* 31 July 1762).

6. 'And calmed the sea for the traveller'; HW is presumably paraphrasing Ovid's line, 'Venus orta mari mare præstat amanti' ('Venus who rose from the sea calms the sea for the lover') (*Heroides* xv. 213). Lady Mary and Lady Ailesbury had accompanied Conway; he wrote the D. of Devonshire 10 April, 'Lady Mary has shone in health, spirits and good humour beyond anything. I can't say enough to commend her as a *compagne de voyage*. Lady Ailesbury too holds up her head pretty well' (Chatsworth MSS, 416/66). Gen. Mostyn wrote Newcastle from Hanover 22 April, 'We hear of General Conway, Lady Ailesbury, Lady Mary Cook, and *plusieurs autres* great personages on this side of the water and on the road to the army, but none of them are yet come up to it' (BM Add. MSS 32922, ff. 126-7).

7. Lady Mary was given to petty economies.

8. The *Maréchale de Guébriant* was sent to the King of Poland with the char-

acter of ambassadress by Louis XIII [XIV] to accompany the Princess Marie de Gonzague, who had been married by proxy to the King of Poland at Paris (HW). Renée du Bec-Crespin (d. 1659), m. (1632) Jean-Baptiste Budes, Comte de Guébriant, *Maréchal de France*. HW also alludes to her mission in his letter to Lady Hervey 3 Feb. 1766 (MORE 102 and n. 4).

9. Who had not yet been selected, although it was generally believed at this time that a Princess of Brunswick would be chosen (Henry Fox to Lady Caroline Fox 7 April, in *Life and Letters of Lady Sarah Lennox*, ed. Lady Ilchester and Lord Stavordale, 1902, i. 100), and Lady Mary had planned to go to Brunswick (below, n. 18). The most serious candidate by April 1761 was the Princess of Darmstadt, unfavourable reports having been received of the Princess of Schwedt. The eventually successful candidate, the Princess of Strelitz (*post* 11 July 1761, n. 5), was already being considered (*Letters from George III to Lord Bute 1756-1766*, ed. Sedgwick, 1939, pp. 22-3, 51-3).

10. Peter Shaw, M.D.; physician in ordinary to George II and George III (*ante* 29 Aug. 1748 OS, n. 10).

11. The root of a South American plant, much used as an emetic (OED).

12. Bute had become secretary of state, at Newcastle's suggestion, in March; the appointment was generally known by the 12th, but he was not formally sworn in until the 25th (Sir Lewis Namier, *England*