

From HERTFORD, Friday ?12 June 1761

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23218, f. 41. Placed in June 1761 because of the reference to the Hertfords' impending trip to Ireland, which began about Friday 26 June (*post* 1 July 1761); tentatively dated the 12th, since this seems to be the only Friday morning in the month on which HW could have left London, as Hertford mentions he has done. HW was at Arlington Street on Tuesday the 9th (HW to Lord Dacre 9 June 1761) and presumably still there on Thursday the 11th when he saw the Duchess of Grafton at Lady Kildare's, but was back at SH on Saturday the 13th (*post* 13 June 1761). The other Fridays are ruled out because HW intended to go to London from SH on Friday the 5th (HW to Lady Mary Coke 3 June 1761, MORE 23); a letter to Montagu from SH on Thursday the 18th makes no mention of an intention to go to London that night, as HW would have had to have done to meet the conditions of the present letter.

Grosvenor Street, Friday, three o'clock.

Dear Horry,

AS we go so soon into Ireland,¹ Lady Hertford thinks it right and would be glad to go to Court on Sunday; Lady Mary Coke and her have conversed upon it; and if equally convenient to you, will propose to dine at Strawberry on Tuesday instead of Sunday. If it is inconvenient you will freely tell me so, and we will dine with you on Sunday; if it is not, Lady Hertford will be less hurried and we shall prefer Tuesday.

I called at your house this morning and you was just gone.

Yours always most faithfully,

HERTFORD

Lady Mary, you understand, approves of Tuesday if you like it.

1. To Lisburn, co. Antrim, where Hertford owned estates estimated to be worth £9000 a year in 1767 ([Thomas Prior], *A*

List of the Absentees of Ireland, Dublin, 1767, p. 5).