

and figuring in,²⁸ had forwarded the Peace. It is no more made than Belleisle is taken.²⁹ However I flatter myself that you will not stay abroad till you return for the Coronation, which is ordered for the beginning of October.³⁰ I don't care to tell you how lovely the season is, how my acacias are powdered with flowers, and my hay just in its picturesque moment—do they ever make any other hay in Holland than bullrushes in ditches? My new buildings rise so swiftly, that I shall not have a shilling left,³¹ so far from giving commissions on Amsterdam. When I have made my house so big that I don't know what to do with it, and am entirely undone, I propose, like King Pyrrhus,³² who took such a roundabout way to a bowl of punch, to sit down and enjoy myself; but with this difference, that it is better to ruin one's self than all the world. I am sure you would think as I do, though Pyrrhus were King of Prussia. I long to have you bring back the only Hero that ever I could endure. Adieu! Madam; I sent you just such another piece of tittle-tattle³³ as this by General Waldegrave;³⁴ you are very partial to me, or very fond of knowing everything that passes in your own country, if you can be amused so. If you can, 'tis surely my duty to divert you, though at

28. A country-dance term. Bussy arrived in London 31 May and Stanley in Paris 4 June (MANN v. 504, nn. 2, 5; *London Chronicle* 30 May – 2 June, 9–11 June, ix. 526, 560). The *London Chronicle* notes (2–4 June, ix. 535), 'On Tuesday last [2 June] Monsieur Bussy waited on the Right Hon. William Pitt, the Earl of Bute, and his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, and afterwards went to Court.'

29. The citadel of Belle-Île capitulated 7 June. 'The news of the surrender of Belleisle was published on Saturday night [13 June] by the firing of the Tower guns about half an hour after eleven. The Mansion House was immediately illuminated, and bonfires lighted before the Admiralty and War Offices. The *Extraordinary Gazette* was published on Sunday about noon [14 June]' (*London Chronicle* 13–16 June, ix. 570).

30. The *London Chronicle* 9–11 June (ix. 554) states that 'orders were given out for the Board of Works to get everything in readiness against the 6th of October next for the Coronation.' The exact date for the Coronation was not set until the Privy Council of 8 July, when it was an-

nounced for 22 Sept.; the date was publicly proclaimed 13 July (*London Gazette* No. 10120, 7–11 July; *Daily Adv.* 13 July).

31. HW had made a similar remark to Mann 9 July (MANN v. 514). The new rooms which HW paid for 6 May 1762 cost him £1,241.8s. (*Strawberry Hill Accounts*, ed. Toynbee, Oxford, 1927, p. 9).

32. The allusion is to a conversation between Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, and his friend Cineas in Plutarch's 'Life of Pyrrhus,' in which the latter asked the King what he intended to do after he had conquered the world. Pyrrhus replied that he should spend his time in feasting and pleasure, whereupon Cineas asked why not do so at once. HW paraphrases the anecdote at greater length in his letter to Lady Mary Coke ca Nov. 1771 (MORE 160–1), following Dryden's translation, with Dacier's notes, 1727, iv. 29–30. HW's copy, now WSL, is Hazen, *Cat. of HW's Lib.*, No. 1718; see also CHUTE 299 and n. 22.

33. *Ante* ca 25 May 1761, missing.

34. John Waldegrave (1718–84), 3d E. Waldegrave, 1763. He had left for Germany 26 May (GM 1761, xxxi. 281); see *ante* 10 April 1761, n. 16.