

## FROM CONWAY, Friday 17 July 1761

Missing; answered *post* 5 Aug. 1761.

## FROM HERTFORD, Friday 17 July 1761

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23218, f. 44.

Lisburn, July 17th 1761.

Dear Horry,

WE did not intend the King should marry so soon and I am half angry with Lady Sarah Lenox for it;<sup>1</sup> after so long a journey it is not pleasant to think of returning immediately,<sup>2</sup> but I suppose you are not serious about my being at the wedding. If you are and think it necessary, tell me; I have wrote by this post to Lord Bute upon it,<sup>3</sup> saying I should be glad to be excused if my personal attendance can be properly dispensed with.<sup>4</sup> If you think I should not be absent on the occasion you will give me your opinion freely; I wish to show every mark of personal regard and respect to his Majesty, though his Ministers have laid me under no obligation to go out of my way.<sup>5</sup> Lady Hertford is concerned about the Coronation and wishes to avoid it; I have told her she cannot. If you think differently she will be very glad to hear your opinion.<sup>6</sup>

1. It was widely believed that the King's marriage had been expedited by his mother and Bute because of his continuing attention to Lady Sarah, especially at the Birthday ball (*ante* 13 June 1761, n. 12 and references cited), but the King had already selected Princess Charlotte by 20 May, and an intimation of the intended proposal had been sent to Strelitz at the beginning of June (*Letters from George III to Lord Bute 1756-1766*, ed. Sedgwick, 1939, pp. 55-6).

2. Hertford had not yet heard of the delay in the wedding because of the death of the Princess's mother (*ante* 14 July 1761, n. 11); in any case, he did not return in time for the wedding (*post* 10 Sept. 1761).

3. Hertford's letter is missing; Bute did not reply (*post* 15 Aug. 1761).

4. Hertford, as a lord of the Bedchamber, might have been expected to participate.

5. In addition to Hertford's long-standing grievance against the government for refusing to turn the borough of Orford over to him (*ante* 1 Sept. 1755, n. 6), he had been piqued by the appointment of Halifax instead of himself as lord lieutenant of Ireland in March 1761; see Lord Holland's 'Memoir,' in *The Life and Letters of Lady Sarah Lennox*, ed. Lady Ilchester and Lord Stavordale, 1902, i. 35.

6. Because of her ill health she watched it with HW from his deputy's house at the gate of Westminster Hall (*post* 25 Sept. 1761).