

We live here very sociably and are treated with great respect, and could be well satisfied to continue in this situation till my sons return to Oxford.⁷ Let me hear from you, and believe me with the best compliments of the family, dear Horry,

Always very sincerely and affectionately yours,

HERTFORD

From LADY AILESBUURY, ca Sunday 19 July 1761

Missing; mentioned *post* 20 July 1761, *sub* 22 July, and in HW to Strafford 22 July 1761 (CHUTE 310).

To LADY AILESBUURY, Monday 20 July 1761

Printed from the MS now WSL; first printed, with omissions, *Works* v. 553-5, and in full Toynbee v. 80-3 and *Supp.* ii. 120. For the history of the MS see *ante* 23 Aug. 1760.

Strawberry Hill, July 20th 1761.

I BLUSH, dear Madam, on observing that half my letters to your Ladyship are prefaced with thanks for presents—don't mistake; I am not ashamed of thanking you, but of having so many occasions for it. Monsieur Hop¹ has sent me the piece of china;² I admire it as much as possible, and intend to like him as much as ever I can; but hitherto I have not seen him, not having been in town since he arrived. You tell me that if I listen to Madame Welderen,³ I shall say you have been very wicked—without her chronicle I say so: be-

7. For Michaelmas term, which began 10 Oct. (*Court and City Register* 1761, p. 89). Lord Beauchamp was at Christ Church, 1760-2; Henry Seymour-Conway matriculated at Hertford College 19 Sept. 1761, receiving his B.A. 1764 and his M.A. (Merton) 1767 (Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*).

1. Hendrik Hop (1686-1761), Lt-Gen.; Dutch envoy extraordinary to England 1723-61 (MANN iii. 212, n. 6).

2. Two gifts of china from Lady Ailesbury are listed in 'Des. of SH,' *Works* ii. 413, 415.

3. Anne Whitwell (1721-96), m. (1759) Jan Walrad, Count van Welderen, Dutch envoy to England 1762-80 (MONTAGU ii. 139, n. 9; OSSORY ii. 250, n. 9; MANN vii. 269-70, n. 3). She had presumably come to England with her husband, who arrived 14 July (CM 1761, xxxi. 330).