

cause *The Book* did but hint at a father giving his son a stone when he asked for a fish,<sup>4</sup> you give me a fish when I asked for a stone: I begged a bit of Delft<sup>5</sup>—you send me old china.

Could I have believed that The Hague would so easily compensate for England? Nay, for Park Place! adieu! all our agreeable suppers! Instead of Lady Cecilia's<sup>6</sup> French songs, we shall have Madame Welderen quavering a confusion of d's and t's, b's and p's—*Bour-quoi sais du blaire?*<sup>7</sup>—worse than that, I expect to meet all my Vanneck relations<sup>8</sup> at your house, and Sir Samson Gideon<sup>9</sup> instead of Charles Townshend. You will laugh like Mrs Tipkin<sup>10</sup> when a Dutch Jew tells you that he bought at two and a half per cent and sold at four. Come back, if you have any taste left. You had better be here talking robes, ermine and tissue, jewels and tresses, as all the world does, than own you are so corrupted. Did you receive my notification of the new Queen?<sup>11</sup> Her mother is dead, and she will not be here before the end of August.

My mind is much more at peace about Mr Conway than it was: nobody thinks there will be a battle,<sup>12</sup> as the French did not attack them, when both armies shifted camps;<sup>13</sup> and since that, Soubize has

4. Matthew 7. 9–10.

5. Lady Ailesbury eventually gave him some: 'Two butter-pots and plates of blue and white Delft ware; presents from Lady Ailesbury' ('Des. of SH,' *Works* ii. 411).

6. Lady [Henrietta] Cecilia West [*ante* ca 9 May 1755, n. 2], daughter of John, Earl of Delawar, afterwards [1762] married to General [James] Johnston (Mary Berry).

7. The first words of a favourite French air (Mary Berry). Although Mme Welderen was an Englishwoman, she had been in Holland before her marriage as maid of honour to Anne, Princess of Orange (Collins, *Peerage*, 1812, vi. 754).

8. HW's first cousins, Thomas and Richard Walpole, had married daughters of Joshua Vanneck in the 1750s.

9. Sir Sampson Gideon (1745–1824), son of the financier Sampson Gideon; cr. (1759) Bt, (1789) Bn Eardley of Spalding; M.P. Cambridgeshire 1770–80, Midhurst 1780–4, Coventry 1784–96, Wallingford 1796–1802.

10. A character in the *Constant Hus-*

*band, or the Accomplished Fools*, by Sir Richard Steele.

11. In his missing letter ca 9 July.

12. There already had been one, at Vellinghausen or Kirch Denckern 15–16 July; see postscript and *post* 23 July 1761.

13. The *London Chronicle* 14–16 July (x. 49) reported, *sub* 'Camp at Hemmerden, July 6': 'On the 1st inst. at 11 at night, our army decamped from Lunderen, and turned the enemy's left flank with a design to attack them in the rear; but it being excessively rainy, and the country full of morasses, it was found impossible to bring up the cannon, and we were forced to lay that attempt aside; upon which we continued our march along the enemy's rear, and without any interruption or loss, took post on their other flank. . . . On the 3d our whole army advanced again upon the enemy, who retired immediately behind Werle . . . and occupied the very same camp where we had been a few days before; and our army then encamped at this place, in the face of the enemy.'