

entrenched himself up to the whiskers<sup>14</sup>—whiskers I think he has, I have been so afraid of him. Yet our hopes of meeting are still very distant; the Peace does not advance,<sup>15</sup> and if Europe has a *stiver*<sup>16</sup> left in its pockets, the war will continue; though happily all parties have been so scratched, that they only sit and look anger at one another, like a dog and cat that don't care to begin again.

We are in danger of losing our sociable box at the opera;<sup>17</sup> the new Queen is very musical,<sup>18</sup> and if Mr Deputy Hodges<sup>19</sup> and the City don't exert their veto, will probably go to the Haymarket—though she will be extremely surprised to find that Giardini<sup>20</sup> does not play on the Jew's-harp, the favourite instrument at the court of Mecklemburg. George Pitt,<sup>21</sup> in imitation of the Adonises in Tanzai's retinue,<sup>22</sup> has asked to be her Majesty's grand harper. *Dieu sait quelle râclerie il y aura!*<sup>23</sup> All the guitars are untuned; Birmingham and Sheffield have raised the price of iron, and if Miss Conway<sup>24</sup> has a mind to be in fashion at her return, she must take some David or

14. The same *London Chronicle* reported *sub* 'Hague, July 10,' 'The Allied army was got on the 8th to Hulbeck, Prince Ferdinand having made a further attempt to bring the enemy to action on the 7th, but the Prince of Soubize again declined it, marching towards Soest; at which place Marshal Broglio, after having taken possession of Warbourg and Paderborn, was said to be arrived on the 5th.'

15. HW presumably did not yet know of the arrival of the French *mémoire* that day (*ante* 14 July 1761, n. 36).

16. The Dutch coin equivalent to an English penny (OED *sub* 'stiver').

17. The Queen's fondness for opera did cause some difficulties about the box, but they were eventually adjusted (*post* 27 Sept., 28 Nov. 1761). For HW's box at the opera, see *ante* 13 Dec. 1760, n. 3.

18. HW describes music as 'her passion' in *Mem. Geo. III* i. 56. Elizabeth, Ds of Northumberland, describes the Queen's weekly concerts: 'The Queen and Lady Augusta play on the harpsichord and sing, the Duke of York plays on the violoncello, and P. William on the German flute; the King never plays in concert, but when they are alone he sometimes accompanies her on the German

flute' (*The Diaries of a Duchess*, ed. James Greig, 1926, p. 41).

19. Sir James Hodges, town clerk and deputy chamberlain of London (*ante* 19 Sept. 1758, n. 9).

20. Felice de Giardini (1716–96), violinist; manager of the Italian Opera in London; in England 1750–84, 1790 (MONTAGU ii. 73, n. 22; *London Stage* Pt IV, ii. 1007).

21. (1721–1803), of Strathfield-Say, Hants; M.P. Shaftesbury 1742–7, Dorset 1747–74; groom of the Bedchamber 1760–70; cr. (1776) Bn Rivers. The reference is obscure, but HW to Lady Ossory 15 Aug. 1765 jokes about his 'attitudes' (OSSORY i. 13).

22. In *Tanzai et Néadarné, histoire japonaise* by Crébillon fils. HW's copy of the 1740 edn is Hazen, *Cat. of HW's Lib.*, No. 979.

23. HW is echoing a passage in the *Mémoires* of Gramont: 'Ce Francisque venait de faire une sarabande qui charmait ou désolait tout le monde; . . . toute la guitarerie de la Cour se mit à l'apprendre, et Dieu sait la râclerie universelle que c'était' (Chap. VIII).

24. The Honourable Anne Damer (Mary Berry).