

Sunday entered the road of Harwich,⁵ and on Monday morning the King's chief eunuch, as the Tripoline ambassador⁶ calls Lord A.⁷ landed the Princess. She lay that night at Lord Abercorn's⁸ at Witham,⁹ the palace of silence;¹⁰ and yesterday at a quarter after three arrived at St James's. In half an hour one heard of nothing but proclamations of her beauty: everybody was content, everybody pleased. At seven one went to Court. The night was sultry. About ten the procession¹¹ began to move towards the chapel, and at eleven they all came up into the drawing-room.¹² She looks very sensible, cheerful, and is remarkably genteel.¹³ Her tiara of diamonds was very pretty, her stomacher sumptuous;¹⁴ her violet-velvet mantle and ermine so heavy, that the spectators knew as much of her upper half as the King himself.¹⁵ You will have no doubts of her sense by what I shall tell you. On the road they wanted her to curl her toupet: she said she thought it looked as well as that of any of the ladies sent to fetch her; if the King bid her, she would wear a periwig, otherwise she would remain as she was.¹⁶ When she caught the first glimpse of the palace, she grew frightened and turned pale; the Duchess of Hamilton¹⁷ smiled—the Princess said, 'My dear Duchess, you may

'Yesterday morning [6 Sept.] about eight o'clock, arrived an express from Loestoffe, which was dispatched at five o'clock on Saturday afternoon, with an account of Lord Anson with the fleet, being then about five leagues from that port, with the wind about west, stretching to the southward. Upon receiving this agreeable news, the guns in the park and at the Tower were fired at noon, a new standard was hoisted at the Tower, the bells were rung, and at night the houses were finely illuminated' (*London Chronicle* 5-8 Sept., x. 234).

5. This news arrived in London on Monday morning (CHUTE 311).

6. Hüsejn (or Hasan or Hussem) Bej, Tripolitan ambassador to England 1759-61 (MANN v. 528, n. 3).

7. Anson, who had commanded the fleet bringing the Queen. HW repeats this 'witticism' to Strafford 8 Sept. (CHUTE 312) and to Mann 10 Sept. (MANN v. 528; see also *ante* 28 May 1758, 16 June 1758, n. 6).

8. James Hamilton (1712-89), 8th E. of Abercorn.

9. Near Chelmsford, Essex.

10. Lord Abercorn was notoriously taciturn (MONTAGU i. 208 and n. 1, ii. 210; MANN v. 528).

11. Described in the *London Chronicle* 8-10 Sept., x. 246; GM 1761, xxxi. 416-17.

12. Where they remained for about ten minutes, but no one was presented (MANN v. 529 and n. 13; *Mem. Geo. III* i. 56; GM 1761, xxxi. 417).

13. HW made similar comments to Mann on the 10th (MANN v. 529) and in *Mem. Geo. III* i. 56.

14. HW told Mann that it was worth 'threescore thousand pounds' (MANN v. 529). Mrs Isabella Ramsden wrote Mrs Charles Ingram 8 Aug., 'The jewels will be immense, the stomacher is worth £70,000' (*Hist. MSS Comm., Various Collections*, 1901-14, viii. 179).

15. HW told Mann that it 'dragged itself and almost the rest of her clothes half way down her waist' (MANN v. 529).

16. HW repeated this to Mann 10 Sept. (MANN v. 528-9).

17. Who had been sent to Strelitz to accompany the Queen to England (*Mem. Geo. III* i. 55).