

You don't presume to suppose, I hope, that we are thinking of you, and wars, and misfortunes and distresses, in these festival times. Mr Pitt himself would be mobbed if he talked of anything but clothes, and diamonds, and bride-maids. Oh! yes, we have wars, civil wars; there is a campaign opened in the Bedchamber.²⁷ Everybody is excluded but the ministers; even the lords of the Bedchamber, cabinet-counsellors, and foreign ministers: but it has given such offence that I don't know whether Lord Huntingdon must not be the scape-goat.²⁸ Adieu! I am going to transcribe most of this letter to your Countess.

Yours ever,

HOR. WALPOLE

TO LADY AILESBUURY, ca Wednesday 9 September 1761

Missing: mentioned in the previous letter as about to be written.

From HERTFORD, Thursday 10 September 1761

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23218, f. 54.

Chester, September 10th 1761.

Dear Horry,

WE have had a very quick passage from Dublin¹ which will require at least a night's rest to recover. I observe by the papers which I found on my arrival here that Lord Anson was making dis-

1720) John Fane, cr. (1733) Bn Catherlough, 7th E. of Westmorland, 1736. HW also admired her appearance at the Coronation (*post* 27 Sept. 1761; MONTAGU i. 387).

27. In a letter of 5 Sept. Lady Kildare mentions 'a sad fuss among the lords of the Bedchamber and the Groom of the Stole [Lord Huntingdon] about putting on the King's shirt. This subject has almost put that of the Wedding and Coronation out of fashion' (*Leinster Corr.* i. 112). The normal procedure was that the King was dressed in levee clothes by the

lord of the Bedchamber in waiting, supervised by the Groom of the Stole (John Brooke, *King George III*, New York, 1972, p. 294).

28. He remained Groom of the Stole until 1770.

1. 'Parkgate, Sept. 11 [*sic*]. This day arrived here the King's yacht from Dublin, with the Marquis of Kildare, Lord and Lady Hertford, Lord Beacham, and Lord Drogheda' (*London Chronicle* 15-17 Sept., x. 269).