

Burlington House to meet the Duchess of Bedford, and see the old pictures from Hardwicke.² If my letter reaches you three days later, at least you are saved from a lamentation. Bussy has put off his journey to Monday³ (to be sure, you know this is Friday): he says this is a strange country, he can get no wagoner to carry his goods on a Sunday. I am glad a Spanish war waits for a conveyance, and that a wagoner's *veto* is as good as a tribune's of Rome, and can stop Mr Pitt on his career to Mexico. He was going post to conquer it—and Beckford, I suppose, would have had a contract for remitting all the gold, of which Mr Pitt never thinks, unless to serve a City-friend. It is serious that we have discussions with Spain, who says France is humbled enough, but must not be ruined.⁴ Spanish gold is actually coining in frontier towns of France;⁵ and the privilege which Biscay and two other provinces have of fishing on the coast of Newfoundland,⁶ has been demanded for all Spain.⁷ It was refused peremptorily; and Mr Secretary Cortez⁸ insisted yesterday sennight on recalling Lord Bristol.⁹ The rest of the Council, who are content with the

2. Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, a seat of the Dukes of Devonshire. HW described the pictures there in Aug. 1760 (*Country Seats* 29–31).

3. When he sailed from Dover (CM 1761, xxxi. 475).

4. 'Spain for some time had interposed officiously in behalf of France, which, said the Spaniards, was sufficiently humbled, and must not be ruined' (*Mem. Geo. III* i. 60).

5. The *London Chronicle* (3–6 Oct., x. 336) announced news from Madrid 'that the Spanish flota was safely arrived from Mexico,' and from The Hague 'that the rich flota which Spain hath long expected from Vera Cruz is arrived at Cadiz. We are told that it hath on board immense sums, the greatest part of which will be employed in executing a project which will not a little surprise, as it may possibly give a new face to the affairs of Europe.' Pitt said in the meeting of the Cabinet Council 2 Oct., 'Spain is now carrying on the worst species of war she can for France, covers her trade, lends her money and abets her in negotiation' (*Hardwicke Corr.* iii. 280; see also *Chatham Corr.* ii. 140, 142–3, n. 1).

6. Not recognized by the English, who claimed that 'Spain having never made

any settlement there [on Newfoundland], and the pretended right of the Biscayners and Guipuscoans not being at any time admitted, the King can never consent to the least concession on this article' (paper sent by E. of Bristol to Pitt 31 Aug., in Cobbett, *Parl. Hist.* xv. 1143; see also Bristol's letter to Pitt 31 Aug., *ibid.* 1137). The *London Chronicle* 17–19 Sept., x. 279, discusses the historical claim of the Biscayners and Guipuscoans to fisheries on the coast of Newfoundland.

7. The French memorial delivered by Bussy to Pitt 23 July, as part of the peace terms between England and France, demanded for Spain the restitution of prizes, the privilege of fishing on the banks of Newfoundland, and the demolition of the British settlement in the Bay of Honduras (MANN v. 536, n. 15; *Mem. Geo. III* i. 62; Cobbett, *op. cit.* xv. 1045).

8. Mr Pitt, then secretary of state (HW).

9. The English ambassador at the Court of Madrid (HW). George William Hervey (1721–75), 2d Bn Hervey of Ickworth, 1743; 2d E. of Bristol, 1751; British ambassador to Spain 1758–61. When Pitt's demand for an immediate declaration of war against Spain on 18th Sept. was overruled by the Cabinet Council, he and Lord Temple drew up a paper recom-