

world they have to govern, without conquering others, prevailed to defer this impetuosity.<sup>10</sup> However, if France or Spain are the least untractable, a war is inevitable: nay, if they don't submit by the first day of the session, I have no doubt but Mr Pitt will declare it himself on the Address.<sup>11</sup> I have no opinion of Spain intending it: they give France money to protract a war, from which they reap such advantages in their peaceful capacity; and I should think would not give their money if they were on the point of having occasion for it themselves. In spite of you, and all the old barons our ancestors, I pray that we may have done with glory, and would willingly burn every Roman and Greek historian who have done nothing but transmit precedents for cutting throats.

The Coronation is over:<sup>12</sup> 'tis even a more gorgeous sight than I imagined. I saw the procession<sup>13</sup> and the Hall;<sup>14</sup> but the return was in the dark.<sup>15</sup> In the morning they had forgot the Sword of State, the chairs for King and Queen,<sup>16</sup> and their canopies.<sup>17</sup> They used the lord mayor's for the first,<sup>18</sup> and made the last in the Hall: so they did not set forth till noon; and then, by a childish compliment to the King, reserved the illumination of the Hall till his entry,<sup>19</sup> by which

mending 'that orders be forthwith sent to the Earl of Bristol . . . to return immediately to England, without taking leave' (*Hardwicke Corr.* iii. 275, 323; MANN v. 537, n. 17). Bristol was finally recalled in mid-November (MANN v. 548 and n. 20).

10. Pitt was supported only by Lord Temple; see *post* HW to Lady Ailesbury 10 Oct. 1761, n. 11.

11. Pitt resigned over the issue 5 Oct. (*post* 10 Oct. 1761). Hardwicke wrote to Newcastle 27 Sept., 'As to the opinion [of the Council] against an immediate declaration of war against Spain, I cannot yet repent of that opinion. There were not sufficient proofs to justify the doing of it. It would have been precipitate, rash and dangerous' (*Hardwicke Corr.* iii. 328).

12. It took place 22 Sept.

13. From Westminster Hall to the Abbey. There are descriptions in GM 1761, xxxi. 418-20; *London Chronicle* 26-9 Sept., x. 305-7; and a detailed account of all the ceremonies connected with the Coronation in the *Annual Register* 1761, pp. [215]-[42].

14. Westminster Hall. HW watched the procession from the home of his deputy,

Grosvenor Bedford, which, as he says below, was at the gate of Westminster Hall.

15. The return procession apparently did not leave the Abbey until about 7:30 P.M.; the King and Queen entered the Abbey at 1:30 and the ceremony lasted six hours (GM 1761, xxxi. 420, 428). 'The return from the Abbey was so late, that the spectators could not distinguish the several degrees of the nobility; the whole not having entered Westminster Hall before 7 o'clock' (*London Chronicle* 22-4 Sept., x. 290).

16. Presumably those for use in Westminster Hall. Thomas Gray, who watched the formation of the procession from within the Hall, mentions the King and Queen taking their place in 'their chairs of state' there before the procession set out (Gray, *Correspondence*, ed. Toynbee and Whibley, Oxford, 1935, ii. 754-5).

17. Presumably those under which they walked in the procession (*ibid.* ii. 755).

18. 'The Sword of State had been entirely forgot; so Lord Huntingdon was forced to carry the Lord Mayor's great two-handed sword instead of it' (*ibid.*).

19. 'The instant the Queen's canopy en-