

My heraldry was much more offended at the Coronation with the ladies that did walk, than with those that walked out of their place; yet I was not so *perilously* angry as my Lady Cowper, who refused to set a foot with my Lady Macclesfield,¹³ and when she was at last obliged to associate with her, set out on a round trot, as if she designed to prove the antiquity of her family,¹⁴ by marching as lustily as a maid of honour of Queen Gwiniver. It was in truth a brave sight. The sea of heads in Palace Yard, the Guards, horse and foot, the scaffolds, balconies and procession, exceeded imagination. The Hall when once illuminated, was noble, but they suffered the whole parade to return into it in the dark, that his Majesty might be surprised with the quickness with which the sconces caught fire.¹⁵ The Champion¹⁶ acted well, the other paladins had neither the grace nor alertness of Rinaldo.¹⁷ Lord Effingham¹⁸ and the Duke of Bedford¹⁹ were but untoward knights errant, and Lord Talbot²⁰ had not much more dignity than the figure of General Monke²¹ in the Abbey.²² The habit of the peers is unbecoming to the last degree; but the peeresses made amends for all defects. Your daughter Richmond, Lady Kildare, and Lady Pembroke were as handsome as the Graces. Lady Rochford, Lady Holderness, and Lady Lyttelton looked exceedingly well in that their day, and for those of the day before, the Duchess of Queensberry, Lady Westmorland, and Lady Albemarle were surprising. Lady Harrington was noble at a distance, and so covered with diamonds, that you would have thought she had bid *somebody* or

13. See *ante* 25 Sept. 1761 and n. 28.

14. The Carterets traced their ancestry to 1000.

15. See *ibid.*, n. 19.

16. John Dymoke (d. 1784), Champion of England, lord of the manor of Scrivelsby, Lincs. As Champion he rode into Westminster Hall armed cap-à-pie and challenged anyone who disputed the King's rights (MONTAGU i. 161, n. 2, 388 and n. 25; GM 1761, xxxi. 421).

17. A chivalric figure in *Orlando Furioso* and *Jerusalem Delivered*.

18. Deputy Earl Marshal for the Duke of Norfolk, who being a Roman Catholic, could not officiate as Earl Marshal. He, Bedford, and Talbot 'in their robes, all three on horseback prancing and curvetting, like the hobby-horses in the *Rehearsal*, ushered in the courses [at the Banquet] to the foot of the haut-pas'

(Thomas Gray, *Correspondence*, ed. Toynbee and Whibley, Oxford, 1935, ii. 753, n. 3, 756).

19. Lord High Constable of England; HW told Montagu he was the least ridiculous of the three (MONTAGU i. 388).

20. Lord High Steward. Perhaps significantly HW does not relate here the story he tells to Montagu of Lord Talbot's horse entering backwards (*ibid.* i. 388-9), and which does not seem to be mentioned again until Wilkes retold it in the *North Briton* No. 12, although there are other references to his difficulty in getting the horse to back down the Hall.

21. George Monck or Monk (1608-70), cr. (1660) D. of Albemarle.

22. Erected in 1730, designed by William Kent and executed by Peter Scheemakers. The Duke stands to the right in armour (Nikolaus Pevsner, *London: I . . . Lon-*