

the same time. I am in such a passion, I cannot tell you what I am angry about—why, about Virtue and Mr Pitt;⁷ two arrant cheats, gypsies; I believe he was a comrade of Elizabeth Canning,⁸ when he lived on Enfield Wash.⁹ In short, the Council were for making peace,

But he as loving his own pride and purposes,
Evades them with a bombast circumstance,
Horribly stuffed with epithets of war,
And in conclusion—nonsuits my mediators.¹⁰

He insisted on a war with Spain,¹¹ was resisted, and last Monday resigned. The City breathed vengeance on his opposers,¹² the Council quaked, and the Lord knows what would have happened; but yesterday, which was only Friday, as this giant was stalking to seize the Tower of London, he stumbled over a silver penny, picked it up, carried it home to Lady Esther,¹³ and they are now as quiet, good sort of people, as my Lord and Lady Bath who lived in the vinegar bottle.¹⁴ In fact, Madam, this immaculate man has accepted the barony of Chatham for his wife with a pension of three thousand pounds a year for three lives,¹⁵ and though he has not quitted the House of

7. Whose resignation 5 Oct. caused a general outcry (below, n. 12).

8. (1734–73), impostor, who was convicted of perjury in 1754 and transported for false accusations that she had been kidnapped. See CHUTE 175.

9. Miss Canning had asserted she had been held prisoner at Enfield Wash. Pitt had occasionally lived at South Lodge in Enfield Chase between 1748 and 1756 (Earl of Rosebery, *Chatham: His Early Life and Connections*, 1910, pp. 308–10).

10. *Othello* I. i. 12–16.

11. Initially on 18 Sept., and again in the Cabinet Council 2 Oct. On both occasions every other member of the Council except Lord Temple had opposed him and favoured a delay in opening hostilities (*Hardwicke Corr.* iii. 274–80; MANN v. 537, nn. 17, 2). Newcastle wrote Bedford 2 Oct., 'Every Lord adhered to his former opinion, and spoke strongly. Lord President, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Hardwicke, Lord Anson, Lord Ligonier, Lord Mansfield, Lord Bute, and myself, against it. My Lord Temple, and Mr Pitt, adhered to the paper, they had given to the King' (BM Add. MSS 32929, f. 29).

12. Bute wrote Newcastle 6 Oct., 'The

storm runs high in the City, and I hear some of them are rash enough to say, they will have their Minister again' (ibid., f. 74; see also MANN v. 540). GM prints letters and extracts from pamphlets about Pitt's resignation (GM 1761, xxxi. 460–8, 513–20).

13. Lady Hester Grenville (1720–1803), m. (1754) William Pitt, cr. (1766) E. of Chatham; cr. (1761) Bns Chatham, s.j. The allusion is to his pension and her barony (below, n. 15; *post* 12 Oct. 1761, n. 3). Richard Rigby wrote Bedford 12 Oct., 'The City and the people are outrageous about Lady *Cheat'em*, as they call her, and her husband's pension' (*Bedford Corr.* iii. 51).

14. According to Mrs Toynbee (v. 132, n. 3), this is an allusion to the west-country tale of Mr and Mrs Vinegar 'who lived in a vinegar-bottle.' Lord Bath was embittered by his loss of popularity when he accepted a peerage in 1742 on the fall of Sir Robert Walpole.

15. His own, his wife's, and their eldest son's. Both the peerage and the pension were announced in the *London Gazette* No. 10146, 6–10 Oct., *sub* 9 Oct. According to HW, this was 'the first instance, I