

Commons, I think my Lord Abercorn would now be as formidable there.¹⁶ The pension he has left us, is, a war for three thousand lives! perhaps, for twenty times three thousand lives! but—

Does this become a soldier? *this* become
Whom armies follow'd, and a people lov'd?¹⁷

What! to sneak out of the scrape, prevent peace, and avoid the war! blast one's character, and all for the comfort of a paltry annuity, a long-necked peeress, and a couple of Grenvilles! The City looks mighty foolish, I believe, and possibly even Beckford¹⁸ may blush. Lord Temple resigned¹⁹ yesterday; I suppose his virtue pants for a dukedom. Lord Egremont²⁰ has the Seals, Lord Hardwicke, I fancy, the Privy Seal,²¹ and George Grenville, no longer Speaker, is to be the Cabinet Minister in the House of Commons.²²—Oh! Madam, I am glad you are inconstant to Mr Conway, though it is only with a barbette;²³ if you piqued yourself on your virtue, I should expect you would sell it to the master of a trackscoot.²⁴

I told you a lie about the King's going to Ranelagh—no matter;

believe, of a pension ever specified in that paper' (*Mem. Geo. III* i. 64-5). See also *Hardwicke Corr.* iii. 330.

16. Abercorn was not 'formidable' at all because of his taciturnity.

17. These lines have not been traced.

18. William Beckford, Pitt's chief supporter in the City. There was a momentary reaction against Pitt in London, and the Common Council, which had been summoned to meet 13 Oct. to thank him for his services, temporarily dropped the intention (*Mem. Geo. III* i. 66; *London Chronicle* 8-10, 10-13 Oct., x. 350, 360). He had however recovered most of his popularity there by the end of October (*post* 26 Oct. 1761).

19. As Lord Privy Seal.

20. Sir Charles Wyndham (1710-63), 4th Bt; 2d E. of Egremont, 1750. As Bute's choice to succeed Pitt, he received the Seals and kissed hands 9 Oct. and was sworn in on the 12th (*Daily Adv.* 10, 14 Oct.; *MANN* v. 540 and nn. 8-9).

21. Newcastle proposed Hardwicke to Bute for the office 9 Oct.; Bute replied that Hardwicke 'was not the least thought of—sure he was rewarded enough by the great things which were done for his

family and with the promise of the President's [of the Council] place.' Nevertheless, it was widely reported at the time that Hardwicke would get it, and on 16 Nov. Bute did in fact offer the post to him. He declined and the D. of Bedford, Bute's own candidate, was appointed 25 Nov. (*Hardwicke Corr.* iii. 292 and n. 3, 328-9; *MANN* v. 541 and n. 8).

22. Grenville, at this time treasurer of the Navy and a member of the Nominal Cabinet, had been under consideration for nomination as Speaker of the House of Commons since the beginning of the year in succession to Arthur Onslow who retired in March 1761. On Pitt's resignation, however, Bute offered him the secretaryship of state with leadership of the Commons; Grenville declined to succeed his brother-in-law and begged to be allowed to go to the Chair as planned, but was finally prevailed upon to accept the leadership of the Commons with a seat in the Effective Cabinet while remaining treasurer of the Navy (*Namier and Brooke* ii. 538-9 and references cited).

23. 'A little dog with long curly hair, a poodle' (OED).

24. See *ante* 21 Jan. 1759, n. 9.