

TO LADY AILESBUURY, Saturday 28 November 1761

Printed from the MS now WSL; first printed, with omissions, *Works* v. 560-1, and in full Toynbee v. 145-7 and *Supp.* ii. 123-4. For the history of the MS see *ante* 23 Aug. 1760; it was marked by HW for inclusion in *Works*.

Arlington Street, Nov. 28th 1761.

Dear Madam,

YOU are so bad and so good, that I don't know how to treat you. You give me every mark of kindness but letting me hear from you; you send me charming drawings the moment I trouble you with a commission,¹ and you give Lady Cecilia² commissions for trifles of my writing, in the most obliging manner—I have taken the latter off her hands; the *Fugitive Pieces* and the *Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors* shall be conveyed to you directly. Lady Cecilia and I agree how we lament the charming suppers there, every time we pass the corner of Warwick Street! We have a little comfort for your sake and our own, in believing that the campaign is at an end, at least for this year—but they tell us, it is to recommence here or in Ireland—you have nothing to do with that. Our politics, I think, will soon be as warm as our war—Charles Townshend is to be lieutenant-general to Mr Pitt.³ The Duke of Bedford is privy seal;⁴ Lord Thomond,⁵ cofferer; Lord George Cavendish, comptroller.⁶

Diversions, you know, Madam, are never at high-water mark before Christmas: yet operas flourish pretty well: those on Tuesdays

1. See *ante* 27 Sept. 1761.

2. Lady Cecilia Johnston (HW).

3. Townshend, who had been secretary at war since March, had been offended by Grenville's appointment to leadership of the Commons, and, according to Henry Fox, by the King's refusal to appoint his wife to the Queen's Bedchamber. He had criticized the King's Speech at a meeting before Parliament opened, but when pressure was immediately applied by the King and some of the other ministers, he moderated his opposition for the time being (Sir Lewis Namier and John Brooke, *Charles Townshend*, 1964, pp. 67-9).

4. Announced in the *London Chronicle* 21-4 Nov., x. 502; see also *ante* HW to

Lady Ailesbury 10 Oct. 1761, n. 21, Hertford to HW 10 Oct. 1761, n. 6, *Bedford Corr.* iii. 58, 59. Bedford held this post until 22 April 1763.

5. Percy Wyndham (after 1741 Wyndham O'Brien) (?1723-74), cr. (1756) E. of Thomond. He had been treasurer of the Household, and was made cofferer in place of James Grenville at George Grenville's request (Namier and Brooke iii. 667-8; *London Chronicle* 26-8 Nov., x. 518). False reports that Lord Melcombe and the E. of Powis had been appointed appeared *ibid.* 3-5, 21-4 Nov., x. 434, 502.

6. Announced *ibid.* 21-4, 26-8 Nov., x. 502, 518.