

me extremely happy. He pleased me still more, by assuring me that you return to England when the campaign opens.<sup>3</sup> I can pay this news by none so good as by telling you that we talk of nothing but peace.<sup>4</sup> We are equally ready to give law to the world or peace, Martinico<sup>5</sup> has not made us intractable. We and the new Czar<sup>6</sup> are the best sort of people upon earth; I am sure, Madam, you must adore him; he is willing to resign all his conquests,<sup>7</sup> that you and Mr Conway may be settled again at Park Place. My Lord Chesterfield, with the despondence of an old man and the wit of a young one, thinks the French and Spaniards must make some attempt

3. Hostilities commenced 'on the night between the 10th and 11th of March,' when 'a body of 3000 French sallied forth from Gottingen, and fell upon the line of the Allies at break of day' (*Operations of the Allied Army under . . . Prince Ferdinand* [1757-62], 1764, p. 243). The British troops, however, remained in winter quarters until May, Conway receiving on the 8th 'les marches-routes et ordres' from Prince Ferdinand 'pour les nouveaux cantonnements' (Conway to Maj.-Gen. de Reden, 8 May, MS copy now wsl); the troops were ordered to march 'from the 11th to the 15th' (Conway to 'Mr Thomas, surveyor of the hospital,' 8 May, MS copy now wsl). On the 16th Conway wrote to Prince Ferdinand from his new quarters at Hertford that 'my Lady Ailesbury . . . partit hier pour la Hollande, sur son voyage pour l'Angleterre' (MS copy now wsl); she arrived back in England ca 30 June (MORE 25; MANN vi. 47), presumably after some protracted stops along the way. See Sir Reginald Savory, *His Britannic Majesty's Army in Germany during the Seven Years' War*, Oxford, 1966, pp. 362-6.

4. On 5 Feb. in the House of Lords the Duke of Bedford had moved 'that it is the opinion of this House, that the war . . . in Germany is necessarily attended with a great and enormous expense . . . and that the bringing the British troops home from Germany would . . . carry on with vigour the war against the united forces of France and Spain . . . to procure a safe and honourable peace' (*Journals of the House of Lords* xxx. 155).

5. In a letter dated 'Martinico, Jan. 20,' and received 'Whitehall, March 9,' Maj.-Gen. Monckton wrote that 'the troops

continue healthy . . . and are in the highest spirits, and I don't in the least doubt but that I shall be able to execute this principal object of his Majesty's commands [i.e., the capture of Fort Royal]' (printed *London Gazette* No. 10189, 6-9 March; reprinted *London Chronicle* 9-11 March, xi. 233). Printed in the same newspapers is a letter from Rear-Adm. Rodney to Cleveland, dated 'Martinico, the 19th of Jan.,' also attesting to the 'perfect health . . . spirit and harmony' of the army and navy (see also Lady Hervey to the Rev. Edmund Morris, 9 March, in her *Letters*, 1821, pp. 285-6). Ft Royal surrendered 4, and most of the island capitulated 7 Feb. (Monckton's dispatch of 9 Feb., printed *London Gazette Extraordinary* 23 March).

6. Peter III (1728-62), who had succeeded his aunt, Elizabeth, as Czar of Russia, 5 Jan. NS.

7. In a declaration of 23 Feb. NS, sent 'to the Imperial, French, and Swedish ministers, residing at Petersburgh,' Peter stated that in order to secure peace, he was 'ready to make a sacrifice of the conquests made by the arms of Russia in this war' (text in GM 1762, xxxii. 103). On 16 March NS an armistice was signed between Russia and Prussia (*Recueil des traités . . . par la Russie avec les puissances étrangères*, ed. F. Martens, St Petersburg, 1874-1909, v. 356-67), and on 5 May NS, a definitive peace treaty was concluded, in which Peter promised 'de restituer à sa Majesté le roi de Prusse tous les états, pays, villes, places et forteresses appartenantes à sa Majesté le roi de Prusse qui ont été occupées par les armées russiennes pendant le cours de cette guerre' (Article VI, *ibid.* 371-2).