

French army as being upon the point of withdrawing towards Francfort.⁶

TO LADY AILESBUURY, Saturday 31 July 1762

Printed from the MS now WSL; first printed *Works* v. 563-4. For the history of the MS see *ante* 23 Aug. 1760; it was marked by HW for inclusion in *Works*.

Strawberry Hill, July 31st 1762.

Madam,

MMAGNANIMOUS as the fair soul of your Ladyship is, and plaited with superabundance of Spartan fortitude, I felicitate my own good fortune who can circle this epistle with branches of the gentle olive, as well as crown it with victorious laurel—this pompous paragraph, Madam, which in compliment to my Lady Lyttelton I have penned in the style of her Lord, means no more, than that I wish you joy of the castle of Waldeck,¹ and more joy on the Peace, which I find everybody thinks is concluded. In truth I have still my doubts; and yesterday came news, which, if my Lord Bute does not make haste, may throw a little rub in the way. In

Great. 'An express is arrived from Sir Joseph Yorke, with an account that letters, received at The Hague from Berlin, had brought advice that the Emperor of Russia had been dethroned by the Empress; and that the army under the command of General Romanzow (which was destined against Denmark) had taken the oath of allegiance to her Imperial Majesty. What is become of the Emperor, or who were the principal persons concerned in bringing about this revolution, or when it happened, is not mentioned. Nor are there (as far as I can learn) any particulars relating to it yet known here' (Hugh Valence Jones to Newcastle 29 July, '3 o'clock', BM Add. MSS 32941, f. 92). See also 'Intelligence from The Hague,' 27 July, *ibid.* f. 64, and *London Chronicle* 29-31 July, xii. 105. The news was confirmed 3 Aug. (*ibid.* 31 July-3 Aug., xii. 120). For a fuller account of the dethronement, see MANN vi. 56-9.

6. 'The same express [received from Sir

Joseph Yorke on 29 July] adds, that the French marshals had sent away part of their heavy baggage, and artillery towards Francfort. By which it was supposed that the army would soon take that route' (Hugh Valence Jones to Newcastle, 29 July, *loc. cit.*).

1. Which surrendered to Conway 'the 11th instant, after a brisk bombardment for two days' (*London Chronicle* 27-9 July, xii. 99). Conway wrote to Devonshire, 21 July, that 'I was sent with three battalions of Brunswick grenadiers to take Waldeck, and performed it; it cost me two days but the French don't shine at these defences . . . they let me frighten them out by marching up with scaling ladders, when my ammunition was out' (Chatsworth MSS, 416/78). See MANN vi. 55-6, and n. 31; Sir Reginald Savory, *His Britannic Majesty's Army in Germany during the Seven Years War*, Oxford, 1966, pp. 380-1 and n.