

I wish Sir W. Pynsent had lived longer, and I think his memory would have been as respected by his having chosen my brother for his heir. We know his principles and may be allowed to be partial to his character and virtues.

I can tell you no news but about the parliament of Brittany,⁹ and I think you have had enough of your own not to wish for a long history of that sort. I have endeavoured to give my brother so abstracted a state of it that I fear it will hardly be intelligible, but if he requires a longer I will give it him though my time is much employed here.

G. Selwyn is still at Paris and I think likely to be here. He waits for and upon Lord March, who does not seem disposed to leave it. Mr Selwyn told me yesterday he began to fear the consequences of his absence as he should be very sorry to offend the King,¹⁰ but I think without his Lordship he cannot return, and must necessarily run every risk.

The English play here a good deal, but it is chiefly amongst themselves and in a particular society, so that no great harm is likely to arise from it.

You will be surprised when you come to Paris to hear how well Lady Hertford talks French. It is not only in England that they fight duels; Lady Hertford, Mr Hume and myself were melancholy eye-witnesses to one last week between two French soldiers in which we saw one killed before our window as we sat at dinner.

I remain, dear Horry, with the best compliments of the family,

Very sincerely and affectionately yours,

HERTFORD

185, and then the question, so amended, passed in the negative (*Journals of the House of Commons*, loc. cit.).

9. The current phase of the long-simmering crisis between the parliament of Rennes and the central administration had begun 16 Oct. 1764 with the handing down by the *Chambre des Vacations* of an *arrêt* prohibiting the collection of a levy of two sols per livre authorized by a royal declaration of 21 Nov. 1763; after a series of measures and counter-measures, the King at the beginning of Feb-

ruary ordered that a deputation from the parliament attend him at Versailles 20 Feb. to hear his intentions (Abbé Eugène Bossard, *Le Parlement de Bretagne et la royauté 1765-1769*, 1882, pp. 12-16; A. Le Moy, *Le Parlement de Bretagne et le pouvoir royal au xviii^e siècle*, 1909, pp. 298-315; Marcel Marion, *La Bretagne et le duc d'Aiguillon 1753-1770*, 1898, pp. 260-319). See *post* 22 March, 5 Dec. 1765 for subsequent developments.

10. See *ante* 18 Jan. 1765, n. 5.