

I could tell you a good story of an Irish gentleman here if it was not too indecent for a modest man to relate very circumstantially.<sup>11</sup> Mr Richards<sup>12</sup> is the name of the gentleman; the lady<sup>13</sup> is Italian, a woman of fashion and said to be very homely. To go from the Prince of Conti's she imprudently accepted a place in his coach. He did not lose an instant in endeavouring to improve the opportunity. He drew upon her before the coach was out of the yard. She defended herself by saying there were then strong reasons against it, to get rid of him; but that was not sufficient for Irish ardour. He was determined as he said to pass *outré*, upon which she was reduced to cry out for protection, and the story as you may imagine is well told amongst the ladies who can relate decently.

I have been soliciting to obtain for a person of my acquaintance here the last papers which d'Éon has published,<sup>14</sup> by which I suppose is meant all that he has published since his first large work;<sup>15</sup> what it is I do not know. Be so good to inform me what they are and to obtain them for me if it is easy. Pray who is the Chevalier Stapleton<sup>16</sup> that is minister from some German court in London?

11. HW describes Hertford to Montagu, 16 May 1759, as 'a little of the prude' (MONTAGU i. 235).

12. Presumably the Mr Richards mentioned in HW's 'Paris Journals' for Sept. 1765, DU DEFFAND v. 261-3. Known as 'the Beau Richard,' he subsequently kept up his acquaintance with Hertford (see *post* 20 Jan. 1766, ca 20 Aug. 1767, 8 Sept. 1775 *bis*, 25 Sept. 1775), and was presumably the Fitzherbert Richards (?b. ca 1729) who succeeded the Hon. Robert Seymour Conway as M.P. for Lisburn borough, county Antrim, Ireland, in 1776 ([Great Britain, Parliament, House of Commons], *Members of Parliament*, 1878, pt ii. 668, 673; see also *Alumni Dublinenses*, ed. G. D. Burtchaell and T. U. Sadleir, Dublin, 1935, p. 700; J. H. Jesse, *George Selwyn and his Contemporaries*, 1882, i. 410; Hist. MSS Comm., 15th Report, App. pt vi, *Carlisle MSS*, 1897, p. 294 *et passim*).

13. Not identified.

14. Various writings by d'Éon were collected in *Pièces relatives aux lettres, mémoires, et négociations particulières du chevalier d'Éon*, 1764 (Yale Cat.), and the

*London Chronicle* 11-14 Aug. 1764, xvi. 147-8, printed four letters allegedly by d'Éon written to Mansfield, Bute, Temple, and Pitt, which had been 'handed about at some of the coffee-houses in town, under the title of *Nouvelles Lettres du Chevalier d'Éon*.' See also MANN vi. 272 and n. 3 for a possible collaboration by d'Éon.

15. Presumably Hertford means d'Éon's *Lettres, mémoires, et négociations particulières* (ante 27 March 1764), though d'Éon had previously published an *Essai historique sur les différentes situations de la France par rapport aux finances sous le règne de Louis XIV et la régence du duc d'Orléans* (one volume, 1753), and *Mémoires pour servir à l'histoire générale des finances* (two volumes, 1758) (Yale Cat.; BM Cat.; Bibl. Nat. Cat.).

16. A Chevalier de Stapleton is listed as minister plenipotentiary from Württemberg in the *Court and City Register*, 1765, p. 109; see also *Court and City Calendar*, 1766, p. 122. He has not been further identified.