

TO HERTFORD, Tuesday 12 February 1765

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Arlington Street, Feb. 12th 1765.

A GREAT many letters pass between us, my dear Lord, but I think they are almost all of my writing. I have not heard from you this age. I sent you two packets together by Mr Freeman,¹ with an account of our chief debates. Since the long day,² I have been much out of order with a cold and cough, that turned to a fever:³ I am now taking James's powder, not without apprehensions of the gout, which it gave me two or three years ago.⁴

There has been nothing of note in Parliament but one slight day on the American taxes,⁵ which, Charles Townshend supporting,⁶ received a pretty heavy thump from Barré,⁷ who is the present Pitt, and the dread of all the vociferous Norths and Rigbys, on whose lungs depended so much of Mr Grenville's power. Do you never hear them to Paris?

The operations of the Opposition are suspended in compliment

1. Containing HW's letter of 27 Jan. 1765, and presumably also a missing letter of ca 30 Jan. 1765 (see *ante* 9 Feb. 1765, n. 4).

2. 29 Jan. (*ibid.*).

3. HW wrote to Montagu, 19 Feb. 1765: 'I have been dying of the worst and longest cold I ever had in my days, and have been blooded and taken James's powders to no purpose' (MONTAGU ii. 147). See *post* 9, 26 March 1765.

4. In 1762; see *ante* 15 March 1762, MONTAGU ii. 29.

5. 6 Feb., when Grenville introduced the American Stamp Bill (*Journals of the House of Commons* xxx. 90; *Mem. Geo. III* ii. 49; Jared Ingersoll to Thomas Fitch, 11 Feb., *Fitch Papers*, ed. A. C. Bates, Hartford, Conn., 1918–20, ii. 321 [*Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, Vols. XVII, XVIII]). The 55 resolutions which formed the basis of the bill are printed *Journals of the House of Commons* xxx. 98–101. It was enacted as 5 Geo. III c. 12 on 22 March (*ibid.* xxx. 293; Owen Ruffhead, *Statutes at Large*, 1763–1800, x. 18–31).

6. James Harris in his MS 'Debates' described Townshend's speech as 'lively and eloquent' (Sir Lewis Namier and John Brooke, *Charles Townshend*, 1964, p. 129). Townshend concluded 'with the following or like words:—And now will these Americans, children planted by our care, nourished up by our indulgence until they are grown to a degree of strength and opulence, and protected by our arms, will they grudge to contribute their mite to relieve us from the heavy weight of that burden which we lie under?' (Ingersoll to Fitch 11 Feb., *op. cit.* ii. 322).

7. Barré's oft-quoted rejoinder—'They planted by your care? No! your oppressions planted them in America,' etc. is given at length in Ingersoll's letter, *ibid.* 322–3. Ingersoll goes on to say that 'these sentiments were thrown out so entirely without premeditation, so forceably and so firmly, and the breaking off so beautifully abrupt, that the whole House sat awhile as amazed, intently looking and without answering a word' (*ibid.* 323).