

HORACE WALPOLE'S CORRESPONDENCE

FROM HERTFORD, Monday 1 July 1765

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23218, ff. 214-15.

Paris, July 1st 1765.

Dear Horry,

I AM unwilling to send a messenger¹ to England and not tell you your friends at Paris are well. We have expected for some time to hear every day that our ministers were changed,² but I have yet received no letter in form signed either with the name of Grafton or William Pitt, though the private correspondences acquaint me I am to expect my orders or my recall from one of those persons.³

Indeed my not having received a letter for some time from the office⁴ would make me suspect everything was not sound and secure there, if the English gentlemen who frequent this house did not so positively assert it. I have not yet received Mr Hume's appointment,⁵ though it has been so long promised; perhaps by this time Sir C. Bunbury, who I am told did all he could to conceal his own promotion in order to have both doors open, is by this time trying the new

1. Presumably James Bullock (*ante* 13 Feb. 1764, n. 1), by whom Hertford sent his dispatch to Halifax of 1 July (S.P. 78/267, ff. 13-15).

2. On 12 June the Duke of Bedford had gone to the King and complained of the latter's uncivil treatment of his ministers and his countenancing of their enemies; the Duke 'prescribed' a month for the King to decide whether to change his ministers or start acting favourably towards them (HW to Mann, 26 June 1765, MANN vi. 307 and n. 3; *Bedford Corr.* iii. 286-8; Geo. III's *Corr.*, ed. Fortescue, i. 116-19; *Grenville Papers* iii. 194; D. of Newcastle's *Narrative of the Changes in the Ministry 1765-1767*, ed. Mary Bateson, 1898, p. 21). Upon this, the King resolved once again to rid himself of them, and in a meeting at Claremont, the Duke of Newcastle's seat, 30 June the Opposition leaders voted 12-6 to accept office (Lord Albemarle, *Memoirs of Rockingham*, 1852, i. 218-20). The chief ministers of the new administration (Rockingham, Grafton, Conway) kissed hands 10 July (*Grenville Papers* iii. 217; *Bedford Corr.* iii.

310; Grafton, *Autobiography*, ed. Anson, 1898, p. 54; P. Langford, *The First Rockingham Administration 1765-1766*, Oxford, 1973, pp. 4-16).

3. Grafton was secretary of state for the northern department in the new ministry, while Pitt refused office, ostensibly because Lord Temple would not come in with him (MANN vi. 309-10 and n. 3). Mr John Brooke suggests (Namier and Brooke iii. 297) that the real reason for Pitt's refusing office was that he was unwilling to form an administration with the Duke of Cumberland's followers.

4. Halifax's last dispatch to Hertford is dated 11 June, his next, 2 July (S.P. 78/266, f. 204; 267, f. 1).

5. He received word of it shortly after this letter was written. 'It is with great pleasure I acquaint your Excellency that his Majesty has been graciously pleased to comply with your request in appointing Mr Hume secretary to your Embassy, and that the usual instruments are preparing at my office' (Halifax to Hertford 2 July, S.P. 78/267, f. 9). See *ante* 20 June 1765 and n. 13.