

ministers, to be reinstated in what he gave up. But it is now too late; the appointment is made public here, and I shall expect it to be done by those who think me worth employing here for some time longer. Knowing the first part of what I have said to be a fact in the opinion of those who saw him in London, I suspect he may try the Duke of Grafton, who is a Suffolk friend of his.<sup>6</sup> I expect to hear my brother will have that justice and honour done him which he so well deserves<sup>7</sup> and that will give me real satisfaction.

The Bénédictins at St Germain's, which is one of the largest and most considerable establishments of that order in France, have lately petitioned the assembly of the clergy now sitting at Paris<sup>8</sup> to throw off the habit and embrace the secular one, to be no longer under the obligation of attending the choir, nor under the restraint of eating fish oftener than is incumbent upon all Roman Catholics, for which reasonable indulgences they plead the disrepute into which the monastic orders are fallen.<sup>9</sup> The other Bénédictin convents it is said proposed likewise petitioning, but were prevented by timely notice being given and proper means used to prevent it.<sup>10</sup> The Cordeliers are said also to be in a flame and with reluctance continue to wear a habit which now carries with it so little respect.<sup>11</sup>

Adieu, my dear Horry,

Yours ever most sincerely,

HERTFORD

6. Bunbury was M.P. for Suffolk, where Grafton had great influence.

7. He kissed hands as secretary of state for the southern department 10 July (*Grenville Papers* iii. 217; *Bedford Corr.* iii. 310; Langford, op. cit. 25-6).

8. The *Gazette de Leyde* 19 July, sub 'Paris, le 12 juillet,' mentions l'assemblée générale du clergé' meeting twice a day at Paris.

9. '1 juillet. Il se répand une *Requête des Bénédictins au Roi*, imprimée, et qui a été présentée à S. M. par M. le duc d'Orléans. C'est une feuille de 4 pages, signée par un grand nombre de religieux de St Germain des Prez et autres. . . Ils se plaignent sommairement d'être astreints à des pratiques minutieuses, à des formules puérides, à une règle gênante et qui n'est d'aucune utilité à l'État. Ils demandent à n'être plus tonsus, à faire gras, à porter l'habit court, à ne plus aller à matines, à minuit, etc.; en un mot, à être comme

séculiers' (Louis Petit de Bachaumont, *Mémoires secrets*, 1780-9, ii. 206). '13 juillet . . . On n'a vu dans cet ouvrage qu'un désir effréné de secouer le joug, et sans un examen bien réfléchi. M. de St Florentin en a témoigné le mécontentement du Roi aux Supérieurs dans une lettre. . . Dom Perneti, Dom Lemaire, qui avaient la plus grande part à cet ouvrage très bien fait, sont exilés' (ibid. ii. 210). See also Grimm, *Correspondance*, ed. Tourneux, 1877-82, vi. 345-7.

10. However, the Benedictines of the convent of the Blancs Manteaux at Paris printed a reclamation against the *Requête* of the Benedictines at Saint Germain, vindicating 'leur froc, leur tunique, toutes les cérémonies . . . dont on voulait les défaire' (Bachaumont, op. cit. ii. 212-13, sub 22 July; Grimm, op. cit. vi. 346).

11. Hertford wrote essentially the same paragraph in his dispatch to Halifax of 1 July (S.P. 78/267, ff. 13-14).