

TO CONWAY, Wednesday 2 October 1765

Printed from *Works* v. 119–22. Sent by Joly, 3 Oct. ('Paris Journals,' DU DEFFAND v. 376). Wrongly dated 6 Oct. in *Works* and all subsequent editions. HW writes that he supped at Mme du Deffand's 'last night,' which is dated 1 Oct. in 'Paris Journals' (DU DEFFAND v. 266); he mentions the arrival of Wilkes 'two days ago,' dated 30 Sept. in 'Paris Journals' (ibid.); and says that he is to sup with the d'Ussons 'on Sunday,' which was 6 Oct. (ibid. v. 267). HW's remark that he was robbed 'the night before last' suggests that he completed this letter 3 Oct., as the theft apparently took place the night of 1–2 Oct. (see 'Paris Journals,' ibid. v. 266, 268, *sub* 2, 29 Oct.).

Paris, October 6 [2], 1765.

I AM glad to find you grow just, and that you do conceive at last, that I could do better than stay in England for politics.¹ *Tenez, mon enfant*, as the Duchesse de la Ferté² said to Madame Staal;³ *comme il n'y a que moi au monde qui aie toujours raison*,⁴ I will be very reasonable; and as you have made this concession to me, who knew I was in the right, I will not expect you to answer all my *reasonable* letters. If you send a bullying letter to the King of Spain,⁵ or to *chose*, my neighbour here,⁶ I will consider them as written to myself, and subtract so much from your bill⁷—nay, I will accept a

1. 'He [Conway] no sooner discovered that my intention was to remain in France much longer than he expected, than he broke out into complaints, entreaties, and reproaches . . . and . . . tried with angry words to divert me from my purpose; urged the occasion he should have for my advice, and called my retreat desertion of my friends. . . . I reminded him of the declaration I had often made of quitting the party as soon as they should be successful . . . and . . . said I knew the obligations the party had had to me; I knew none I had to them' (*Mem. Geo. III* ii. 151, cited Appendix 7). It is noteworthy that HW was able to write as usual to Conway despite his understandable resentment of Conway's neglect of him.

2. Madeleine d'Angennes (1629–1714), m. (1655) Henri de Saint-Nectaire, Maréchal-Duc de la Ferté (DU DEFFAND i. 169, n. 6).

3. Marguerite-Jeanne Cordier de Lauenay (1684–1750), m. (1735) Baron de Staal (ibid. i. 78, n. 27).

4. 'Tiens, mon enfant, je ne vois que

moi qui aie toujours raison' (Mme de Staal, *Mémoires*, 1755, i. 269; HW's copy is Hazen, *Cat. of HW's Lib.*, No. 1286). Mme de Staal goes on to add that 'cette parole a servi, plus qu'aucun précepte, à m'apprendre la défiance de soi-même, et je me la rappelle toutes les fois que je suis tenté de croire que j'ai raison' (loc. cit.).

5. Mr Conway was now secretary of state for the foreign department (HW).

6. The King of France, Louis XV (HW). *Chose* here is equivalent to 'what's-his-name.'

7. HW favoured the new administration's adopting a firm policy towards Spain and France in the negotiations over payment of the Manila ransom and the Canada bills, and the demolition of the harbour at Dunkirk (*ante* 18 Oct. 1763, 27 Aug. 1764, nn. 27, 29): 'It would be glorious for them to extort what the peacemakers had not dared to insist on; or, baffled, the shame would lie at the door of their predecessors' (*Mem. Geo. III* ii. 161). France he felt especially ripe for