

## TO LADY HERTFORD, ca Saturday 26 October 1765

Missing; listed in 'Paris Journals' (DU DEFFAND v. 377); sent 'by Mr [William] Burrell' (1732-96), LL.D.; 2d Bt, 1788; antiquary.

## TO CONWAY, Monday 28 October 1765

Printed from *Works* v. 122-4. Dated 29 Oct. in 'Paris Journals' (DU DEFFAND v. 377); sent 31 Oct. 'by Comte Lauraguais's English coachman' (ibid.).

Paris, October 28, 1765.

MR Hume<sup>1</sup> sends me word from Fontainebleau,<sup>2</sup> that your brother, some time in the spring of 1764, transmitted to the English ministry *a pretty exact and very authentic account of the French finances*; these are his words: *and that it will be easily found among his Lordship's dispatches of that period.*<sup>3</sup> To the other question<sup>4</sup> I have received no answer; I suppose he has not yet been able to inform himself.

This goes by an English coachman of Count Lauragais, sent over to buy more horses: therefore I shall write a little ministerially, and, perhaps, surprise you, if you are not already apprised of things in the light I see them.

The Dauphin will probably hold out very few days. His death, that is, the near prospect of it, fills *the philosophers* with the greatest joy, as it was feared he would endeavour the restoration of the Jesuits.<sup>5</sup> You will think the sentiments of *the philosophers* very odd *state news*—but do you know who *the philosophers* are, or what the term means here? In the first place, it comprehends almost everybody; and in the next, means men, who avowing war against popery, aim, many of them, at a subversion of all religion, and still many more, at the destruction of regal power. How do you know this? you will say; you, who have been but six weeks in France, three of which you have

1. The celebrated David Hume was secretary of embassy to the Earl of Hertford during his residence at Paris (HW).

2. The letter is missing.

3. The account is not among Hertford's

dispatches for that period in S.P. 78/260-2.

4. Not ascertained.

5. HW claims that the Dauphin's piety was just a veneer (*Mem. Geo. III* ii. 170-1).