

TO CONWAY, Friday 29 November 1765

Printed from *Works* v. 124–6. Sent 1 Dec. by Andrew Staley (ca 1733–1813), King's messenger ca 1762–95, with a parcel for Lady Ailesbury (DU DEFFAND v. 378; MANN viii. 1, n. 2; *Court and City Register* 1762–95 *passim*).

Paris, November 29, 1765.

AS I answered your short letter¹ with a very long one,² I shall be shorter in answer to your long,³ which I received late last night from Fontainebleau: it is not very necessary; but as Lord William Gordon⁴ sets out for England on Monday,⁵ I take that opportunity.⁶

The Duke of Richmond⁷ tells me that Choiseul has promised everything.⁸ I wish it may be performed, and *speedily*, as it will give you an opportunity of opening the Parliament⁹ with great *éclat*. My opinion you know is, that this is the moment for pushing them and obtaining.¹⁰

Thank you for all you say about my gout. We have had a week of very hard frost, that has done me great good, and rebraced me. The swelling of my legs is quite gone. What has done me more good, is having entirely left off tea, to which I believe the weakness of my stomach was owing, having had no sickness since. In short, I think I am cured of everything but my fears. You talk coolly of going as far as Naples, and propose my going with you.¹¹ I would not go so far, if Naples was the direct road to the new Jerusalem. I have no thought or wish, but to get home, and be quiet for the rest of my

1. Missing.

2. Presumably HW's missing letter *ante* ca 29 Nov. 1765.

3. Also missing.

4. (1744–1823), M.P. Elginshire 1779–84, Inverness-shire 1784–90, Horsham 1792–6.

5. 2 Dec.

6. However, Lord William apparently did not leave until 4 Dec., and HW's letter went by Staley 1 Dec. (see headnote; DU DEFFAND v. 378).

7. Who had arrived in Paris 6 Nov. (*ibid.* v. 270).

8. I.e., the payment of the Canada bills (see *ante* 27 Aug. 1764, n. 27). However, Choiseul continued to prevaricate; this 'promise' was apparently one of the flippancies and 'evasions' of the Duc mentioned by HW in *Mem. Geo.* III ii. 161.

Conway, in a letter to Richmond of 10 Dec., complains of the French minister's levity, and threatens to bring the affair before Parliament if satisfaction is not forthcoming (MS now WSL). In Jan. Choiseul agreed to almost total compensation, and the agreement was signed in London 29 March 1766 by Conway and the Comte de Guerchy. See MORE 97 and n. 11; SELWYN 213 and n. 2; *Mem. Geo.* III ii. 162–3.

9. Which had been prorogued until 17 Dec. (*Journals of the House of Commons* xxx. 435–7).

10. See *ante* 2 Oct. 1765, n. 7.

11. Conway was already chafing over the burden of being secretary of state; see below.