

## FROM LADY AILESURY, ca December 1765

Missing; acknowledged by HW *post* 5 Dec. 1765, *sub* 9 Dec.

## TO CONWAY, Thursday 5 December 1765

Printed from *Works* v. 126–8. Sent, 17 Dec., by Andrew Stuart (see postscript below).

Paris, December 5, 1765.

I HAVE not above a note's worth to say; but as Lord Ossory sets out tomorrow,<sup>1</sup> I just send you a line.

The Dauphin, if he is still alive, which some folks doubt, is kept so only by cordials;<sup>2</sup> though the Bishop of Glandève<sup>3</sup> has assured the Queen that he had God's own word for his recovery, which she still believes, whether her son is dead or not.

The remonstrance of the parliament of Paris, on the dissolution of that of Bretagne, is very decent; they are to have an audience next week.<sup>4</sup> They do not touch on Chalotais,<sup>5</sup> because the accusation against him is for treason. What do you think that treason is? A correspondence with Mr Pitt, to whom he is made to say, *that Rennes is nearer to London than Paris*.<sup>6</sup> It is now believed that the anonymous letters, supposed to be written by Chalotais, were forged by a Jesuit<sup>7</sup>—those to Mr Pitt could not have even so good an author.

1. See below, *sub* 9 Dec.

2. He died 20 Dec.

3. Gaspard de Tressemanes de Brunet (1721–84), Bp of Glandèves 1755–72. HW reported this anecdote also to Lady Suffolk 5 Dec. 1765 (MORE 79), and recorded it in 'Paris Journals' 12 Dec. 1765 (DU DEFFAND v. 284–5).

4. See *ante* 9 Feb., 22 March 1765. As a result of continued resistance to the central administration, in mid-November six members of the parliament of Rennes were arrested, others exiled, and a commission appointed by the King substituted for the parliament itself (SELWYN 206, n. 19). The parliament of Paris subsequently drew up a remonstrance protesting the substitution of the commission; this was presented 8 Dec. (*ibid.* n. 21).

5. Louis-René de Caradeuc de la Chalotais (1701–85), procureur-général of the parliament of Rennes; champion of the Breton parliament against the central administration. He had been arrested 11 Nov. (*ibid.* n. 20).

6. 'Les amis de M. de la Chalotais . . . répandaient le bruit . . . qu'on n'avait trouvé autre chose à lui reprocher que d'avoir correspondu sans permission avec M. Pitt' (Marcel Marion, *La Bretagne et le duc d'Aiguillon 1753–1770*, 1898, p. 366). However, this rumoured correspondence was not brought up at the trial; see *ibid.* n. 2.

7. La Chalotais had been one of the first magistrates in France to contribute to the abolition of the Jesuits, by his *Comptes rendus des Constitutions des*