

The Duke of Richmond is still at Aubigné; I wonder he stays, for it is the hardest frost alive. Mr Hume does not go to Ireland, where your brother finds he would by no means be welcome.⁸—I have a notion he will stay here till your brother's return.⁹

The Duc de Praslin, it is said, will retire at Christmas.¹⁰ As La Borde,¹¹ the great banker of the Court, is trying to retire too,¹² my cousin,¹³ who is much connected with La Borde, suspects that Choiseul is not very firm himself.¹⁴

I have supped with Monsieur de Maurepas,¹⁵ and another night with Marshal Richelieu: the first is extremely agreeable and *sensible*; and, I am glad, not *minister*.¹⁶ The other is an old piece of tawdry,

Jésuites au parlement de Bretagne, 1761, 1762 (NBC). However, these anonymous letters were a central issue in the trial. Two in number, they had been posted in June from Rennes to the Comte de Saint-Florentin, one of the King's secretaries of state, and were alleged by the King's handwriting experts to be by La Chalotais: (1) 'dis a ton Maitre que Malgre Lui nous chasserons ses 12 j[uges] [who had remained after a walk-out by the parliament of Rennes in May] et Toy aussi'; (2) 'Tu est j[ean] f[outre] auttant que Les 12 j f Magistras qui ont echapé a La deroutte generale raporte cecy a Louis pour quils conunce [connaisse] donc nos affaire et puis ecris en son non [nom] mais sans son su belle epitres au 12 j f Magistra' (Barthélemy Pocquet, *Le Duc d'Aiguillon et La Chalotais*, 1900, ii. facsimile opp. p. 224; Marion, op. cit. 337-41). La Chalotais vigorously denied their authorship, and the whole process eventually bogged down in counter-accusations. Finally the King in 1769 cleared him of any crime, but confirmed his suspension from his functions (SELWYN loc. cit.). See *post* 30 July 1771.

8. 'I have in my possession the letter which Lady Hertford wrote to Hume to induce him not to go to Ireland; the chief topic is the prejudice against him as both a sectarian and a free-thinker' (Croker MS cited by Cunningham iv. 450, n. 2). Hume had written to Adam Smith 5 Sept. that he intended to visit Ireland after the arrival of Richmond in Paris, but wrote to the Rev. Hugh Blair, 1 Jan. 1766, that he had decided 'not to go to Ireland. . .

Lord Hertford has been so good as to excuse me,' giving as his reason, however, not the antipathy of the Irish to him but the late arrival of Richmond and his engagement with Rousseau, whom he had agreed to settle in England (Hume, *Letters*, ed. J. Y. T. Greig, Oxford, 1932, i. 521, 532).

9. He left for England 4 Jan. 1766 with Rousseau (J. Y. T. Greig, *David Hume*, New York, 1931, p. 331; *post* ca 4 Jan. 1766).

10. Currently minister of foreign affairs, Praslin on 8 April 1766 became minister of the marine and colonies, and was named *chef du conseil des finances*. See *post* 8 April 1766.

11. Jean-Joseph (1724-94), Marquis de La Borde; financier.

12. HW may have heard this from La Borde himself, whom he called on 4 Dec. (MORE 80; DU DEFFAND v. 280).

13. Thomas Walpole, English banker in Paris.

14. For the time being, Choiseul's position was safe; he was disgraced in 1770, at which time La Borde, whom Choiseul had made marquis and Court banker in return for financial services, also retired (NBC; *post* 29 Dec. 1770).

15. Jean-Frédéric Phélypeaux (1701-81), Comte de Maurepas.

16. Maurepas, formerly minister of the marine, had been disgraced in 1749, 'a very favourable event . . . for us,' as he was 'one of our bitterest enemies, and the greatest promoter of their marine' (HW to Mann 3 May 1749 OS, MANN iv. 51). He came into office again upon the ac-