

FROM HERTFORD, Friday 20 December 1765

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23218, ff. 230-1.
Charade (in HW's hand):

Pour aller jusqu'à moi il faut plus que sept pieds,
 Et souvent en chemin on dit son patenôtre;
 Mon Tout est séparé d'une de mes moitiés;
 L'une de ces moitiés sert à mesurer l'autre.

The editors suggest 'cimetière' as the solution. In going to the cemetery the eight feet of the pallbearers are necessary, and of course the Lord's prayer would be often recited; a cemetery would never be found on a peak ('cime'), and peaks can be measured in meters ('metière' = 'mètre').

Dublin Castle, December 20th 1765.

Dear Horry,

DO not condemn me if I am a bad private correspondent. I am got into a scene of business that employs me fully. I now and then get an hour for shooting and a little exercise, and those minutes are stolen from the solicitors of Government. What would you take to be thus employed? Nothing; you would despise the laurels I am endeavouring to acquire at such a price. However, my son is getting praise and reputation very fast,¹ and if I leave my daughters behind me in this country² you will not pity the private loss I shall sustain. I must endeavour to comfort myself; I have a large family and it is my duty to labour for it even at my own expense.³

Do not inquire how I pass my time here; there are few idle hours as you see. I go sometimes in an evening to assemblies, but they do not entertain me after Paris; I confess I left the pleasure of society at that place. I likewise go once in a week to the play,⁴ with guards and all the attendants of a King, but I am not flattered by such ap-

1. The praise was not universal, for Lady Holland, replying to Lady Kildare 26 Feb. 1766, wrote: 'I can't believe what is said of Lord Beauchamp; he is a favourite of mine' (*Leinster Corr.* i. 435-6). HW alludes to Beauchamp's avarice as secretary in his MS 'foul copy' of *Mem. Geo. III*, p. 272, and Beauchamp's vanity did not make him popular (see *Leinster Corr.* i. 398, 436).

2. As married women; see subsequent letters.

3. Before he left Ireland, Hertford's

'economic temper . . . and too great propensity to heap emoluments on his children,' along with Beauchamp's avarice, were seized upon by the Opposition to occasion to him 'several mortifications' (MS 'foul copy,' *Mem. Geo. III*, loc. cit.; see also *Leinster Corr.* i. 436-7 and *post* 21 May 1766).

4. There were two rival theatres in Dublin, the Smock Alley and the Crow Street. See La Tourette Stockwell, *Dublin Theatres and Theatre Customs (1637-1820)*, Kingsport, Tenn., 1938, pp. 120-35.