

The Parliament meets next Thursday,¹² and the Tuesday after,¹³ my drawing-rooms, which are not very agreeable. The deep mourning¹⁴ puts a stop to the balls at the Castle, which is a great loss to the young people. I hear poor Lady Kildare is much better than she was, both in her health and spirits. Her eyes are better than they have been for many years, which has been a great relief to her.¹⁵ I fear I shall have no opportunity of seeing her when she comes to settle in Dublin, as Lord Kildare does not come to the Castle.¹⁶

Doctor Lucas has been as troublesome to Government as it was in his power to be;¹⁷ but I won't attempt telling you the particulars, as they are tedious, and I know I should not explain them well.

I hope Madame de Mirepoix will receive her ten pieces of paper soon;¹⁸ I have wrote to Doctor Hunter to send it directly, and I know he has had it a great while. She insisted upon my letting her know what it cost; therefore if she asks, you will be so good as to tell her twelve pounds English, which is I believe about eleven louis and nine livres.¹⁹ I am surprised Lady Harvey did not acknowledge the receipt of the book,²⁰ as I sent it to her the morning after I arrived in London. At the same time I sent the knives to Lord Rockingham,²¹ and carried the parcel²² myself to Lady Townshend, but did not find her at home.

I pity Mr Jephson²³ very much, who is a person I believe you know, at least from character. He has just lost his pension,²⁴ has not a hundred a year in the world, and is gone to England to marry a

12. 23 Jan. (*Journals of the House of Commons* . . . Ireland, xiv. 165-6).

13. 28 Jan.

14. For Prince Frederick William, who died 29 Dec.; see *London Gazette* Nos 10587, 10611, 28-31 Dec. 1765, 22-5 March 1766, sub 'Lord Chamberlain's Office,' 31 Dec., 24 March.

15. Besides suffering from chronically poor eyesight, Lady Kildare had so far gone through the rigours of bearing thirteen children and was currently pregnant with her fourteenth child, Lord Gerald, born 15 March; the previous year she had lost two of her children, Lady Louisa, aged five, and Lord Offaly, aged 17, who died 26 Sept. (see *ante* 2 Oct. 1765; Brian Fitzgerald, *Emily Duchess of Leinster 1731-1814*, 1950, pp. 115-16; *Leinster Corr.* i. 450-1).

16. See *ante* 1 Nov. 1765. However, the Hertfords did see her at Carton in May,

while Lord Kildare was in England; see *post* 25 May 1766.

17. See *ante* 13 Jan. 1766 and n. 2.

18. See *ante* 16 Dec. 1765.

19. This is just the equivalency given in *The Gentleman's Guide . . . through France*, 1788, pp. 7-8.

20. Not identified; 'I sent your Ladyship two little French pieces that I hope you received' (HW to Lady Hervey 13 Oct. 1765, MORE 60).

21. A knife purchased at Clermont for 20 livres (DU DEFFAND v. 376, 399).

22. Two knives purchased for 48 livres (*ibid.*).

23. Robert Jephson (1736-1803), poet and dramatist; later HW's occasional correspondent and author of *The Count of Narbonne*, a dramatic adaptation of HW's *Castle of Otranto* (see *post* 18 Nov. 1781).

24. A pension of £300 per annum on the Irish establishment procured for Ed-