

Miss Barry,<sup>25</sup> who is ten or twelve years older than him, and who has no fortune.

We have a very fair prospect of settling our two eldest daughters very greatly here, which makes us very happy.<sup>26</sup> I don't dare mention more about it at present, but in about a week I fancy we shall know absolutely, and my Lord I am sure will acquaint you immediately, as you are one of our best friends; and in the meantime pray don't even give a hint of what I have said.

I would have you preserve your taste for Paris till May, but not longer, as Strawberry Hill and this family cannot dispense with your absence longer. Has Madame de Bussy<sup>27</sup> produced an heir to her riches? I am sure you will have the goodness to continue to express our gratitude to our friends in France. I am, with the truest regard,

Most faithfully yours,

I. HE.

<sup>28</sup>. . . Mr Richards<sup>29</sup> begs before you leave Paris that you will buy him a suit of black Vellourras<sup>30</sup> and have it made up for him at

mund Burke by his patron William Gerard Hamilton in 1763, the proceeds of which were assigned to Jephson in 1765. 'On the 16th December, 1765, it ceased, pursuant to his Majesty's letter of that date, and lord lieutenant's warrant thereon, dated 13th January, 1766' (statement from the vice-treasurer's office, Dublin, dated 25 Aug. 1824, quoted in James Prior, *Life of . . . Edmund Burke*, 1854, [reprint, 1968], i. 142). However, a new pension for the same amount was later secured for Jephson with, according to Charles O'Hara, 'the arrears paid up from the time of its [i.e., the former pension's] being recalled' (letter to Burke 22 Oct. 1767, quoted in Burke's *Correspondence*, Vol. I, ed. T. W. Copeland, Cambridge, 1958, p. 226, n. 3); this new pension Jephson enjoyed until his death (Martin S. Peterson, *Robert Jephson*, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1930, p. 10). The original pension had been terminated because of a quarrel between Burke and Hamilton; see *ibid.* 10-11; Prior, *op. cit.* i. 139-42; Burke, *op. cit.* 163-226 *passim*; T. W. Copeland, 'Burke's First Patron,' *History Today* 1952, ii. 394-9.

<sup>25</sup>. Jane Barry (ca 1724-6 - ?after 1777),

daughter of Sir Edward Barry, an eminent Dublin physician who had left Ireland to practise in London; m. (1767) Robert Jephson (DNB; Peterson, *op. cit.* 14; Garrick, *Private Correspondence*, ed. Boaden, 1831-2, ii. 272).

<sup>26</sup>. See *post* 4 Feb. 1766.

<sup>27</sup>. Marie-Charlotte-Justine, Comtesse de Messey (after 1735 - ?after 1773), Chanoinesse de Mons, m. (by contract of 2 June 1765, as his second wife) Charles-Joseph Patissier de Bussy (1720-85), a commander of French forces in India who had made a fortune there and purchased the marquisate of Castelnaud. They had no children (*Dictionnaire de biographie française*, 1933- , vii. 721-2; La Chenaye-Desbois iv. 525, xii. 138, xiii. 786; *Répertoire . . . de la Gazette de France*, ed. de Granges de Surgères, 1902-6, i. 598; DU DEFFAND iii. 362).

<sup>28</sup>. The following fragment is apparently part of an otherwise missing continuation of the present letter; the MS is the bottom of a page, the top of which has been cut off.

<sup>29</sup>. See above, n. 11.

<sup>30</sup>. *Sic* in MS; presumably 'velours.'