

son of how much pleasanter it is to govern by gaining the hearts of subjects.

The Prince of Montauban<sup>25</sup> is dead and Madame de Lambert.<sup>26</sup> The Queen has been in great danger with an inflammation in her lungs, but is said to be out of danger; but one never knows the truth about gods till they are dead.<sup>27</sup>

That odious horse-race,<sup>28</sup> which I mentioned to you in my last,<sup>29</sup> has created, or brought out, most disagreeable animosities between the two nations. Lauragais's horse was taken ill on the very morning, ran, but could not complete the course and died that evening. It was affirmed that a jury of farriers swore it was poisoned, but they only said that a drink which had been given to it, had occasioned its death. As Lauragais is a bit of a chemist and a good deal of a quack,<sup>30</sup> he probably killed his horse by some invigorating measures; the more moderate accuse an English groom of patriot jealousy, but most of the French tax Lord Forbes himself. In short, they have been very impertinent.<sup>31</sup> Lauragais disappeared in two days, for which different reasons are assigned. He is certainly in England, as he told Lord George,<sup>32</sup> on information that a *lettre de cachet* was issued against him, at his father's<sup>33</sup> request. There are many more circumstances re-

25. Charles de Rohan (1693–25 Feb. 1766), Prince de Rohan-Montauban (La Chenaye-Desbois xvii. 515).

26. Louise-Thérèse de Menou (1714–28 Feb. 1766), m. (1740) Henri-François de Lambert (DU DEFFAND *passim*). HW described her to John Craufurd 6 March 1766 as 'one of the worst' of the hypocrites who abused Mme du Deffand behind her back while pretending to be her friend.

27. She was suffering from a cold and fever, and had a relapse in April, but recovered again and did not die until 1768. Her illness, aggravated by the deaths of her son, the Dauphin, and her father, King Stanislas, had been so serious at the beginning of March that she was given last rites. See SELWYN 218–19 and n. 20; *post* 8 April 1766; and DU DEFFAND i. 5.

28. Run 25 Feb. between the Comte de Lauraguais and Lord Forbes on the *plaine de Sablon* near the Bois de Boulogne ('Paris Journals,' *ibid.* v. 304; COLE i. 109–10).

29. HW's missing letter *ante* ca 24 Feb. 1766; evidently HW wrote of his intention of seeing the race, since the race took

place after that letter was written. Lauraguais was Hertford's former landlord at Paris (see *ante* 22 March 1764), while Forbes was the young man who had courted his daughter, Lady Anne, the year before (see *ante* 20 June 1765).

30. See *ante* 22 March 1764, n. 8.

31. For further details of the race and its aftermath, see COLE *loc. cit.*; MORE 107; and HW to John Craufurd 6 March 1766.

32. Lord George Henry Lennox (1737–1805), brother of the Duke of Richmond; army officer; M.P. He was currently secretary to his brother at Paris, had stayed behind as chargé d'affaires after the Duke's departure for England 17 Feb., and was named minister plenipotentiary 1 July, which post he held until October (*ante* ca 17 Feb. 1766; D. B. Horn, *British Diplomatic Representatives 1689–1789*, 1932, p. 23).

33. Louis de Brancas (1714–93), Duc de Villars-Brancas (DU DEFFAND iii. 61, n. 23). Lauraguais was on bad terms with both his father and his wife: see *ante* 22 March 1764 and n. 7.