

here, that the day before Lord Chatham set out for Pynsent, he executed a letter of attorney with full powers to his wife, and the moment it was signed, he began singing—this comes from Nuthall.¹⁴

You may depend upon it I shall only stay here to the end of the month;¹⁵ but if you should want me sooner, I will set out at a moment's warning, on your sending me a line by Lord Rochford's courier. This goes by Lady Mary Coke, who sets out tomorrow morning early, on the notice of Mr Townshend's death, or she would have stayed ten days longer.¹⁶ I sent you a letter¹⁷ by a Mr Fletcher,¹⁸ but I fear he did not go away till the day before yesterday.

I am just come from dining *en famille* with the Duc de Choiseul;¹⁹ he was very civil—but much more civil to Mr Wood²⁰ who dined there too. I forgive this gratitude to the *peacemakers*.

I must finish, for I am going to Lady Mary,²¹ and then return to sup with the Duchess de Choiseul,²² who is not civiller to anybody than to me. Adieu!

Yours ever,

H. W.

TO LADY AILESBUURY, Sunday 13 September 1767

Missing; listed in 'Paris Journals' (DU DEFFAND v. 385).

14. Thomas Nuthall (d. 1775), solicitor to the Treasury; Chatham's intimate friend and legal adviser (DNB; this corrects earlier identifying notes in GRAY and MANN). On 17 Aug. Lady Chatham wrote to Nuthall that 'the great state of weakness which my Lord feels from the continuance of his illness makes the transacting of any business so uneasy to him, that he is extremely desirous of giving to me a *general* letter of attorney, empowering me to transact all business for him. He . . . wishes you would . . . prepare one . . . and bring it with you . . . in the course of this day' (printed *Chatham Corr.* iii. 282).

15. HW left Paris 8 Oct. after delaying a few days because of illness ('Paris Journals,' DU DEFFAND v. 323-4).

16. See *ibid.* v. 319 and Coke, *op. cit.* ii. 121-2. She was a sister of Townshend's widow, Lady Greenwich.

17. Missing.

18. Not identified. HW also sent a letter by Fletcher to Hertford, which Hertford had some difficulty in recovering; see *post* 14, 17 Sept. 1767.

19. See 'Paris Journals,' *loc. cit.*

20. Robert Wood, who as under-secretary of state had been involved in preparing the preliminaries of the Peace of Paris (see *ante* 9 Dec. 1763, n. 41; Namier and Brooke iii. 655-6). HW mentions Choiseul's preference for Wood also to Conway *post* 31 Dec. 1774.

21. See Coke, *op. cit.* ii. 122 and 'Paris Journals,' *loc. cit.*

22. See *ibid.*