

## From HERTFORD, Monday 14 September 1767

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London, September 14th 1767.

Dear Horry,

I CAME here on Wednesday last,<sup>1</sup> having been kept something longer in Warwickshire than I expected. This morning I received your letter<sup>2</sup> of the 9th by Lady Mary Coke, and it is the first account we have had of you since you left Calais.<sup>3</sup> I have already sent into the City to make inquiry after Mr Fletcher, but I have as yet heard nothing of him nor of the letter I should have received from his hands.<sup>4</sup> It gives me some pain, as you tell me it was a particular one, but I dare say I shall be able at last to preserve it from falling into other hands.

My brother tells [me] he has wrote to you twice.<sup>5</sup> C. Townshend's death will make no sort of alteration except in filling up his place by someone who will certainly not speak so ingeniously in the House of Commons. Lord Rochford sets out for Paris on Friday,<sup>6</sup> and I will write to you more particularly by him;<sup>7</sup> as this subject may be a matter of curiosity at the post offices, I will satisfy no such inquirer by anything I can say, and I am sure you will approve it.

Lord Townshend goes to Ireland<sup>8</sup> and sets out about the 25th.<sup>9</sup>

Lady Greenwich<sup>10</sup> remains at Sudbrook.<sup>11</sup> The world blame her for not having attended earlier than she did to Mr Townshend's case. He was not thought to be in any danger, and it was treated as a nervous complaint till the disorder was too deeply rooted.<sup>12</sup> He has

1. 9 Sept.

2. Missing.

3. Presumably a reference to HW's missing letter to Conway *ante* 21 Aug. 1767.

4. See *post* 17 Sept. 1767.

5. Both letters are missing.

6. 18 Sept. 'Yesterday [18 Sept.] . . . the Earl of Rochford . . . set out from his house in Dover Street, on his embassy to the Court of France' (*Daily Adv.* 19 Sept.).

7. See Hertford to HW *post* 17 Sept. 1767.

8. As lord lieutenant; see *ante* 9 Aug. 1767, n. 2.

9. He took leave of the King on the 25th, but did not set out until Oct. (*Daily Adv.* 26 Sept. *et seq.*). He continued as lord lieutenant until 1772.

10. Townshend's widow.

11. Where Townshend had died (*ante* 9 Sept. 1767, n. 5).

12. Lady Greenwich 'at first said that Mr Townshend's disorder was only lowness of spirits; but at last called in Sir William Duncan' (Thomas Whately to Grenville, 24 Aug., *Grenville Papers* iv. 158).