

## FROM LADY HERTFORD, Thursday ?8 October 1772

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23219, f. 100.

*Address:* To the Honourable Mr Walpole.

Thursday evening.

My dear Mr Walpole,

**I**F I had known before Sunday how weak and ill you were, I should have begged as hard not to see you, as you have done, to be kept quiet.<sup>1</sup> The gout like the toothache never sounds terrible, and I was in hopes you only complained because you suffered wholesome pain. I am sincerely grieved you have been so seriously ill, but I hope you will soon be better, and that you will once in your life act rationally and neither drink cold water or lie in a wet room. If you have any commands in London pray employ me, and if we can be of any use at Strawberry Hill, pray send us a summons and we will obey it with alacrity. I am

Most sincerely yours,

I. H.

## FROM HERTFORD, Saturday 10 October 1772

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23219, ff. 62-3.

London, October 10th 1772.

Dear Horry,

**W**E are much obliged to you for taking, in the literal sense, the pain of writing.<sup>1</sup> We were not informed or aware that you had been so ill; the maid at your house in town spoke of it as a slight attack, and we are very sorry it has been so serious: Lady Hertford and my daughter Frances<sup>2</sup> intended, as we thought of it before, to have paid you a visit by way of inquiry, but they will now wait your

1. HW wrote to Mason 13 Oct. 1772: 'I have been in my bed this fortnight with the gout in every limb, and have not the use of either hand or foot' (MASON i. 51). HW's fit did not abate until the new year.

1. HW's letter is missing.

2. Lady Frances Seymour Conway (1751-1820), m. (1775) Henry Fiennes Pelham Clinton, styled Earl of Lincoln, heir apparent of the Duke of Newcastle.