

return to London. I am going into Suffolk, and hope to see you better, in town and free from pain when I return; in the meantime, if you should grow worse, have the charity for us to acquaint us with it and not leave us in ignorance, behaving like brutes and with a seeming indifference for a friend's pains.

My brother when he left town was uneasy upon some information he had picked up that there was a doubt about his intention of resigning,³ in case the appointment of Lord Townshend⁴ took place, and desired I would use all the proper means in my power to undeceive the world in that respect, which I have done, and in particular Lord North, by means of a joint friend,⁵ that it might not have the appearance of menace and indispose him to serve us with his good offices. Lord North expressed great concern for my brother's resolution, and said he was afraid that no arrangement could now be made to prevent Lord Townshend's appointment. This you will observe in the way it has been communicated is not a formal notice, and it will remain for my brother to decide when he shall wait upon Lord North to acquaint him in form with it. In my opinion there does not seem to be any very immediate occasion, as Lord Harcourt⁶ is not to be at Holyhead till the 30th,⁷ and Lord Townshend talks of staying in Ireland some time after, to give every man who does not intend it an opportunity of fighting him for the errors of his government;⁸ and whenever my brother does it, I hope for his own sake and character that he will be induced to say that he means to resign with as much respect as possible to the King, and as little injury as possible to the public service, and therefore is very ready to do the business till my Lord's appointment or that Lord North has made his arrangements. By this means a little time may be given if they can and are disposed to do anything to prevent it.

I am, dear Horry,

Very faithfully and sincerely yours,

HERTFORD

3. As lieutenant-general of the Ordnance.

4. As master-general of the Ordnance; see *ante* 27 Aug. 1772, *post* 22 Oct. 1772.

5. Not identified.

6. Townshend's successor as lord lieutenant of Ireland; he had kissed hands for the post 9 Oct. (*Daily Adv.* 10 Oct.).

7. He did not embark from Holyhead

until 28 Nov. (*London Gazette* No. 11307, 5-8 Dec., *sub* Dublin Castle, 30 Nov.).

8. 'At his giving up his government he affected a delay of eight days, to give time, when become a private man, to those who resented any part of his behaviour to call him to account; but Dr Lucas [see *ante* 13 Jan. 1766], who had challenged him, was dead' (*Last Jour-*