

I am not so ungrateful to him as not to lament his murder very sincerely. I think you have worse luck with your favourites than anybody.

Mrs Damer really appears to me better, but I shall not be satisfied till her night-sweats are gone. She is very good and comes to me often, though I preach to her. She is not yet gone to Goodwood,<sup>3</sup> but goes this week. I think it a cold house, but the air is certainly dry and wholesome, and the journey is good for her. You shall hear from me the moment she returns. Lady Lyttelton does, as your Ladyship suspected, find my house cold: I have not seen her this week till this morning; she is all over cramps and rheumatisms and Mr de Prie.<sup>4</sup> Indeed, Madam, I want you and Mr Conway in town: Christmas has dispersed all my company, and left nothing but a loo-party or two—which in truth you would be as impatient to be at, as they are. If all the fine days were not gone out of town too, I should take the air in a morning; but I am not yet nimble enough, like old Mrs Nugent,<sup>5</sup> to jump out of a post-chaise into an assembly.

You have a woeful taste, my Lady, not to like Lord Gower's bon mot; it is perfection: the next I tell you, shall be one of Lady Egremont's<sup>6</sup> own, which I dare to say you will admire. I am almost too indignant to tell you of a most amusing book in six volumes, called *Histoire philosophique et politique du commerce des deux Indes*.<sup>7</sup> It tells one everything in the world, how to make conquests, invasions, blunders, settlements, bankruptcies, fortunes, etc.; tells you

3. Seat of the Duke of Richmond in Sussex.

4. Louis de Prie (1734–82), Marquis and Comte de Prie de Bourbon-Lairey. HW had met him at Paris in 1766 (DU DEFFAND v. 293, 298).

5. See *ante* 8 Nov. 1752, 11 Sept. 1765.

6. Alicia Maria Carpenter (d. 1794), m. 1 (1751) Charles Wyndham, 2d E. of Egremont; m. 2 (1767) Hans Moritz, Graf von Brühl.

7. *Histoire philosophique et politique des établissements et du commerce des Européens dans les deux Indes*, by the Abbé Guillaume-Thomas-François Raynal (1713–96). The Bibl. Nat. Cat. lists editions published at 'Amsterdam,' 1770 and 1772, both volumes in octavo (see A. Feugère, *Bibliographie critique de . . . Raynal*, Angoulême, 1922, pp. 15–21).

Mme du Deffand mentioned the *Histoire* to HW 27 March 1772, *sub* 29 March, as a 'livre nouveau qui fait assez de bruit' (DU DEFFAND iii. 210; see also Louis Petit de Bachaumont, *Mémoires secrets*, 1780–9, vi. 111–12 and Grimm, *Correspondance*, ed. Tourneux, 1877–82, ix. 487). Since the work was published anonymously, HW presumably did not yet know that Raynal was the author; Mme du Deffand informed him 5 Jan. 1773 that 'tout le monde dit qu'il est de l'Abbé Raynal' (DU DEFFAND iii. 308). HW had met Raynal several times in Paris 1765–6 ('Paris Journals,' *ibid.* v. 267, 279, 289, 299, 302), and entertained him at SH in 1777 (DALRYMPLE 136; OSSORY i. 357). See *post* 12 Nov. 1774. HW's copy does not appear in the SH accounts.