

FROM HERTFORD, Monday 21 June 1773

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23219, f. 68.

Memoranda (by HW):

Ld Walpole
[?Bucky]
Mr Coppinger†

Grosvenor Street, June 21st 1773.

Dear Horry,

MR Sharpe² tells me that you have determined to sell Lord Orford's horses and to give away his dogs.³ If the latter be certainly and positively so, I will beg you to reserve for me two of his best pointers, which I shall of course take care of, use properly as I am a sportsman, and return for my Lord's use again at any time in case he recovers.⁴ But I beg, as Lord Orford's friend, that it may not be done for me, as he might hereafter blame me, except it is a determined plan, as Mr Sharpe has told me, in which case the dogs would be better with me than in other hands. Pray do not mention this as an idea of mine, if I am misinformed, for the same reason. I am going to Portsmouth⁵ and Mr Sharpe told me no time was to be lost, which makes me write. I am always, dear Horry,

Very truly and affectionately yours,

HERTFORD

1. Presumably Fysh Coppinger, lawyer, admitted Lincoln's Inn, 1751 (*Records of . . . Lincoln's Inn*, 1896, i. 439). A letter from him 5 July ?1772 to Sir Edward Walpole, promising to take care of a furniture transaction, is now WSL; see also Sir Edward Walpole to HW 5 May 1770, FAMILY 59.

2. Joshua Sharpe (d. 1788), lawyer and legal adviser to the Countess of Orford, Lord Orford's mother (*ante* 24 Oct. 1756, n. 2).

3. Lord Orford was suffering from an attack of insanity which had begun in January and lasted till the end of the year (see FAMILY, Appendix 6), and HW was undertaking the management of his affairs, Orford's mother being in Italy (see *post* 30 Aug. 1773). HW wrote to Lord Ossory, in his letter to Lady Ossory 26 June 1773, that 'I am advised to let . . .

[Mr Philip Burlton] sell Lord Orford's horses in this July meeting [at Newmarket]; and his mares, fillies, etc. in October'; this plan was followed (OSSORY i. 131, n. 4, 133 and nn. 16-17). For his dogs, see next note.

4. HW wrote to Lord Townshend 24 Aug. 1773 that 'I had determined to part with nothing that could give Lord Orford pleasure, but on condition that every individual should be restored to him, if I am so happy as to see him recover. With this view I have reserved his five best pointers . . .' The rest of his dogs, a 'very superior' collection, were sold or given away; see also HW to Thomas Walpole 4 Sept. 1773, FAMILY 95 and n. 3; MANN vii. 540 and n. 6.

5. Where the King was going to review the fleet; see *ibid.* vii. 491 and nn. 16-17.