

about the virtue of the bootikins. I shall even have courage to go tomorrow to Chalfont³⁹ for two days, as it is but a journey of two hours. I would not be a day's journey from hence for all Lord Clive's diamonds. This will satisfy *you*. I doubt Madame du Deffand is not so easily convinced: therefore pray do not drop a hint before her of blaming me for not meeting you; rather assure her you are persuaded it would have been too great a risk for me at this season. I wish to have her quite clear of my attachment to her; but that I do not always find so easy. You, I am sure, will find her all zeal and *empressement* for you and yours. Adieu!

TO LADY AILESBUURY, ca Thursday 20 October 1774

Missing. 'Mais vous, vous ne me parlez point de votre santé, vous mandez à la Milady que vous avez eu quelque ressentiment de goutte' (Mme du Deffand to HW 26 Oct. 1774, DU DEFFAND iv. 105). Mme du Deffand was presumably mistaken about the gout; see *post* 7 Nov. 1774.

FROM LADY AILESBUURY, ca Thursday 20 October 1774

Missing; mentioned *post* 29 Oct. 1774.

FROM CONWAY, Sunday 23 October 1774

Missing; answered *post* 29 Oct. 1774.

39. Seat of the Churchills.