

## FROM LADY AILESBUURY, ca Tuesday 1 November 1774

Missing. Lady Mary Coke writes in her *Journals*, iv. 423, *sub* 5 Nov. that HW 'has had two letters' from Lady Ailesbury; the first is mentioned *ante* 29 Oct. 1774, while this one was presumably answered by HW's letter to Lady Ailesbury *post* 7 Nov. 1774.

## FROM CONWAY, ca Friday 4 November 1774

A fragment of a letter otherwise missing; printed from *Works* v. 170, n. 2. See *post* 12 Nov. 1774, n. 13, for another possible fragment from this letter.

ON St Hubert's<sup>1</sup> Day in the morning I had the honour of being presented to the King:<sup>2</sup> 'twas a good day and an excellent deed. You may be sure I was well received, the French are so polite! and their Court so polished!—The Emperor<sup>3</sup> indeed talked to me every day; so did the King of Prussia regularly and much:<sup>4</sup> but that was not to be compared to the extraordinary reception of his Most Christian Majesty, who, when I was presented, did not stop, nor look to see what sort of an animal was offered to his notice, but carried his head as it seemed somewhat higher, and passed his way.<sup>5</sup>

1. (ca 655–727), Bishop of Liège. His feast is 3 Nov.

2. At Fontainebleau. Mme du Deffand wrote to HW 31 Oct. 1774 that Conway, presumably with Lady Ailesbury and Mrs Damer, was to set out for Fontainebleau 1 Nov. and return 4 Nov.; she wrote 6 Nov. 1774 that 'vos Miladys ont été passer deux jours [presumably 2–3 Nov.] à Fontainebleau . . . elles ont parfaitement réussi,' omitting any mention of Conway's reception there (DU DEFFAND iv. 110, 112).

3. Joseph II. For his gracious reception of Conway at Vienna 3 Aug., see *ante* 18

Aug. 1774, n. 3; he also treated Conway with distinction at his camp at Pest 19–25 Aug., (Conway to Hertford 21, 31 Aug., MSS now wsl); see also David Scott, 'Journal of a Military Tour of the Continent with Gen. Conway,' pp. 129–39.

4. See *ante* 18 Aug. 1774, n. 3, 27 Sept. 1774, n. 1.

5. See Conway's further remarks on his presentation in his letter to Sir Robert Murray Keith 19 Nov. in Keith's *Memoirs and Correspondence*, ed. Mrs Gillespie Smyth, 1849, ii. 30.