

St Parliament's Day, 29th,<sup>46</sup> after breakfast.

The speech is said to be firm, and to talk of the *rebellion* of our province of Massachusetts.<sup>47</sup> No sloop is arrived yet to tell us how to call the rest.<sup>48</sup> Mr Van<sup>49</sup> is to move for the expulsion of Wilkes;<sup>50</sup> which will distress, and may produce an odd scene. Lord Holland<sup>51</sup> is certainly dead; the papers say, Robinson<sup>52</sup> too, but that I don't know:—so many deaths of late make report kill to right and left.

### TO LADY AILESBUURY, Tuesday 13 December 1774

Missing; mentioned *post* 15 Dec. 1774.

### TO CONWAY, Thursday 15 December 1774

Printed from *Works* v. 175–6.

Arlington Street, December 15, 1774.

AS I wrote to Lady Ailesbury but on Tuesday,<sup>1</sup> I should not have followed it so soon with this, if I had nothing to tell you but of myself. My gout is never dangerous, and the shades of them not important. However, to dispatch this article at once, I will tell you, that the pain I felt yesterday in my elbow made me think all former

46. The new Parliament opened this day.

47. The King's speech of 30 Nov., printed *Journals of the House of Lords* xxxiv. 269, expresses the King's 'firm and steadfast resolution to withstand every attempt to weaken or impair the supreme authority of this legislature over all the dominions of his crown'; it also refers to 'a most daring spirit of resistance and disobedience to the law . . . in the province of the Massachusetts Bay,' but does not use the word 'rebellion,' which appears however in George III's letter to North of 18 Nov.: 'The New England governments are in a state of rebellion' (Fortescue, *op. cit.* iii. 153).

48. See *post* 15 Dec. 1774.

49. Charles Van (d. 1778), M.P. Brecon 1772–8.

50. No such motion was made. In Feb. 'Vann, a strange man, urged the imputation of blasphemy against Wilkes, having in a bravado the last winter vowed to do so' (*Last Journals* i. 438; see also Cobbett, *Parl. Hist.* xviii. 376).

51. Stephen Fox, 2d Lord Holland; for various alleged dates of his death, see OSSORY i. 219, n. 13.

52. John Robinson (1727–1802), M.P. Westmorland 1764–74, Harwich 1774–1802; joint secretary to the Treasury 1770–82. He had been ill, and the *Daily Adv.* 29 Nov. and other papers reported his death at Bath, but the *London Chronicle* 26–9 Nov., xxxvi. 520, refuted this report, 'that gentleman being better.'

1. His letter is missing.