

Thursday 10th.

I cannot find any grounds for believing that any proposals are come from the Congress. On the contrary, everything looks as melancholy as possible.²⁰ Adieu!

TO LADY AILESURY, Thursday 17 August 1775

Printed from the MS now wsl; first printed *Works* v. 567–8. For the history of the MS see *ante* 23 Aug. 1760; it was marked by HW for inclusion in *Works*.

Address: To the Countess of Ailesbury, at Park Place near Henley, Angleterre.

Postmark: 19 AV. DOVER.

From t'other side of the water,¹ Aug. 17th 1775.

INTERPRETING your Ladyship's orders in the most personal sense as respecting the dangers of the sea, I write the instant I am landed. I did not in truth set out till yesterday morning at eight o'clock,² but finding the roads, horses, postillions, tides, winds, moons and Captain Factors³ in the pleasantest humour in the world, I embarked almost as soon as I arrived at Dover⁴ and reached Calais before the sun was awake⁵—and here I am for the sixth time of my life, with only the trifling distance of seven and thirty years between my

the bulk of his immense fortune to Sir Gregory Turner, Bt,' who was his great-nephew and took the name of Page before that of Turner by royal licence of 15 Nov. (Cec. *Baronetage* v. 24, n. 'd,' 78).

20. However, Edmund Burke had written to John Almon 6 Aug. thanking him for 'your early communication of the intelligence you have' regarding an 'opening towards a reconciliation on the part of America,' and Almon in his *Memoirs* states that 'this letter related to the petition brought from the American Congress by Mr Penn'; if so, Almon must have received some information which anticipated the arrival of Richard Penn, Jr (ca 1735–1811) 13 Aug. with the so-called 'olive branch petition' (Burke, *Correspondence*, Vol. III, ed. Guttridge, Cambridge, 1961, pp. 184, 188). This petition, the original of which is reproduced in facsimile in B. F. Stevens, *Facsimiles of*

Manuscripts in European Archives Relating to America, 1889–98, v. No. 454, begged the King to use his influence to revoke the acts of his ministers which stood in the way of reconciliation. It was presented to Lord Dartmouth 1 Sept., but the King refused to see it (Hist. MSS Comm., 14th Report, App. pt x, *Dartmouth MSS*, Vol. II, 1895, p. 358; GM 1775, xlv. 433).

1. Calais (see below).
2. 'Aug. 16. Set out from Arlington Street at 10 minutes past 8' ('Paris Journals,' DU DEFFAND v. 342).
3. James Peter Fector (1723–1814) of Dover (*ibid.* iii. 307, n. 2; MONTAGU ii. 282, n. 1 and addendum).
4. HW 'arrived at Dover a quarter before seven' and 'embarked at half an hour past twelve at night' ('Paris Journals,' *loc. cit.*).
5. 'At six in the morning' (*ibid.*).