

first voyage and the present.<sup>6</sup> Well, I can only say in excuse, that I am got into the land of Strulbrugs, where one is never too old to be young, and where *la béquille du père Barnabas*<sup>7</sup> blossoms like Aaron's rod, or the Glastonbury thorn.

Now to be sure I shall be a little mortified, if your Ladyship wanted a letter of news, and did not at all trouble your head about my navigation. However, you will not tell one so; and therefore I will persist in believing that this good news will be received with transport at Park Place, and that the bells of Henley will be set a-ringing. The rest of my adventures must be deferred till they have happened, which is not always the case of travels. I send you no compliments from Paris, because I have not got thither, nor delivered the bundle which Mr Conway sent me. I did, as your Ladyship commanded, buy three pretty little medallions in frames of filigraine for our dear old friend.<sup>8</sup> They will not ruin you, having cost not a guinea and half, but it was all I could find that was genteel and portable; and as she does not measure by guineas but attentions, she will be as much pleased as if you had sent her a dozen acres of Park Place. As they are in bas-relief too, they are feelable, and that is a material circumstance to her—Indeed I wish the Diomède had even so much as a pair of Nankin!<sup>9</sup>

Adieu, *toute la chère famille!* I think of October<sup>10</sup> with much satisfaction; it will double the pleasure of my return.

6. HW first set out for Paris in March 1739 (*ante* connecting note between 24 March OS and ca 8 Nov. 1739 NS).

7. A popular French tune, mentioned by HW also to Lady Ossory 4 Nov. 1786 (OSSORY ii. 534).

8. Mme du Deffand.

9. Trousers (specifically, trousers made of nankeen, or yellow cotton cloth; see OED *sub* 'Nankeen').

10. I.e., of Lady Ailesbury's proposed visit to SH in October.