

much.¹⁶ He intends staying here the whole winter, and therefore proposes asking H. R. H. to take a house, and not remain at Cavendish House. You must not tell the good story about Mrs Vaughan¹⁷ any more, for her husband died last night,¹⁸ and I hear she is almost distracted.

I have not heard for some days of Lady Ailesbury, but I believe she still has very little use of her arm,¹⁹ as the swelling continued a great while and I fancy is not yet gone off. Our Parliament meets the 26th of October.²⁰ There has been no news of consequence from Boston since you went. I found Ragley in great beauty, but wetter than I ever saw it, as they had not had a dry day there since Whit-sunday,²¹ though London and its environs had so fine a summer till August.

Mr Selwyn is at Richmond with the child,²² and foregoes the joy of going to Castle Howard²³ for her sake. Lord March is not quite in his good graces at present,²⁴ for they have been three weeks there, and he has not made them one visit, though he has made a great many to a beautiful kitty²⁵ in London.

I now reckon summer almost over (which I rejoice at) as Drury Lane playhouse opens tomorrow sennight.²⁶ Pray write to me soon

16. Lady Mary Coke describes him in her 'MS Journals' 22 Nov. as 'in his manner very polite, and seems to be liked by everybody.'

17. Mrs Henry Vaughan (*ante* 9 July 1775, n. 13).

18. 'Last Friday [8 Sept.] [*sic*] died, at his house at Twickenham, H[enry] Vaughan, Esq.' (*Daily Adv.* 12 Sept.; *GM* 1775, xlv. 455).

19. See *ante* 8 Sept. 1775.

20. The King's proclamation ordering the meeting of Parliament on that date is printed *Daily Adv.* 8 Sept.

21. 4 June in 1775.

22. Maria Emily Fagnani ('Mie Mie') (1771-1856), m. (1798) Francis Charles Seymour-Conway, styled E. of Yarmouth, 3d M. of Hertford 1822, the Hertfords' grandson. Legally the daughter of Giacomo, Marchese Fagnani, who had m. (1767) Costanza Brusati, she was in reality probably the Marchesa's daughter by Lord March. Selwyn virtually adopted her soon after her birth (*SELWYN* 263, n. 7).

23. Yorkshire, seat of Lord Carlisle.

Selwyn wrote to Carlisle from Richmond 1 Sept., excusing himself from visiting him at Castle Howard on account of business; however, his primary concern was presumably to look after Mie Mie (see *Carlisle MSS*, pp. 286-7, 291, 747).

24. Selwyn had apparently quarrelled with March about bringing Mie Mie to Richmond; see *ibid.* 286, 291, 747.

25. Presumably Catherine ('Kitty') Frederick (d. ?1777), courtesan, 'the favourite mistress of the Duke of Queensberry' (Horace Bleackley, *Ladies Fair and Frail*, 1925, p. 282; portrait facing p. 284; see also MS note cited in Musgrave's *Obituary*, ed. Armytage, 1899-1901, ii. 369; F. O'Donoghue and H. M. Hake, *Catalogue of Engraved British Portraits . . . in the British Museum*, 1908-25, ii. 258; J. C. Smith, *British Mezzotinto Portraits*, 1884, iii. 1268).

26. 16 Sept.; actually, Drury Lane opened 23 Sept. with a performance of Richard Cumberland's *The Brothers* (*London Stage Pt IV*, iii. 1912).