

## FROM LADY HERTFORD, Monday 25 September 1775

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23219, ff. 73-5.

London, September the 25th 1775.

Dear Mr Walpole,

**I** MET with a disappointment today, for it was reported you was to be here in a day or two,<sup>1</sup> and this evening your maid<sup>2</sup> called to say you did not set out till the 10th; but I am within this half hour put into good humour again by your kind letter,<sup>3</sup> which next to seeing you, always is a great satisfaction to me. I have not time to tell you what parts of it entertain me the most, and shall reserve all my curiosity about Paris till we meet; but I am rejoiced to hear you have seen so much of Madame de Praslin,<sup>4</sup> for she was always so good to me that I only see her perfections. I have many requests to get over some *point d'Argentan* men's ruffles; may I therefore ask you to get some female friends to choose some for me, for they are always the best judges of lace. They must be of the newest patterns, and from five to seven guineas a pair, and I will desire Mr Panchaud<sup>5</sup> to pay you the money for them. You must bring them for me, and likewise twelve pair of embroidered shoes not made up, without gold or silver. They cost 50 sols<sup>6</sup> a pair. They will take up very little room or I would not trouble you to bring them. I should be glad to have them of different colours, all worked with white silk. Am I intelligible?<sup>7</sup>

I returned on Wednesday<sup>8</sup> from Sudborne, and my Lord comes

1. See *ante* 9 Aug. 1775.

2. Mary (*ante* 8 Sept. 1775 *bis*, n. 4). HW wrote to her ca 19 and 21 Sept. 1775 ('Paris Journals,' DU DEFFAND v. 396); the second letter went by 'Morgan' 21 Sept., who also carried HW's letter to Lady Ossory 12-21 Sept. 1775, in which HW announced *sub* 16 Sept. that he had promised to stay at Paris 'till the tenth of next month' (OSSORY i. 264).

3. Presumably *ante* ca 19 Sept. 1775 (missing).

4. Wife of the Duc de Praslin, secretary of state for foreign affairs during Hertford's Paris embassy (see *ante* 19 Nov., 7

Dec. 1763, 9 March 1765). HW had seen her most recently on 18 Sept. ('Paris Journals,' DU DEFFAND v. 349).

5. Isaac Panchaud, banker.

6. Two shillings (*Gentleman's Guide . . . through France*, 1788, p. 7).

7. In his list of 'things sent to England Sept. 28. 1775,' HW notes '2 candlesticks—Lady Hertford' costing 13 louis; there are no other items listed as expressly for her, though he does mention '2 pair of lace ruffles 6 louis' in his 'Money laid out, 1775' ('Paris Journals,' DU DEFFAND v. 413-14).

8. 20 Sept.