

meet; they are not fit for the public ear, and if possible³ still less for that of his relations.⁴ I am, dear Horry,

Always very truly and affectionately yours,

HERTFORD

From CONWAY, late Thursday or early Friday, 15
or 16 August 1776

Missing. 'I have had a very calm letter from him [Conway] on the occasion [of Damer's suicide]' (HW to Lady Ossory 15 Aug. 1776, *sub* 16 Aug., OSSORY i. 314).

From LADY AILESBUURY, Thursday 22 August 1776

Printed from the MS now wsl; first printed Toynbee *Supp.* ii. 151-2. For the history of the MS see *ante* 23 Aug. 1760.

Park Place, Thursday.

My dear Mr Walpole,

I CANNOT be longer silent, when I have so many thanks to return you, for the part you have taken in this melancholy event, and your very kind offer of putting off the promised journey to Brighthelmstone; which I hope to profit by, though not exactly according to our first intentions, for our tour into Norfolk we shall be obliged to give up, for the reasons I am going to explain to you.¹ Mr Conway has this day received a letter from Mrs Damer, acquainting us, that Lord Milton is resolved to pay none of his late son's debts,² and that she after everything is sold for that purpose will set

3. 'If possible' inserted above the line in the MS.

4. He shot himself after supping with 'four common women' and a 'blind fiddler'; see MANN *loc. cit.*

1. HW wrote to Lady Ossory 13 July 1776 that he intended to go to Brighthelmstone (Brighton) for the sea air, and

15 Aug. 1776: 'I shall not go to Brighthelmstone. . . . I have asked my nephew's leave to show them [the Beauclerks] Houghton, and to Mr Conway and Lady Ailesbury' (OSSORY i. 304, 313). Before HW received this letter, the Beauclerks had already declined (*ibid.* i. 319).

2. HW wrote to Mann 11 Aug. 1776 that Damer and his two brothers (George and