

now in town equally alarmed at this measure; and as there is no time to be lost, I believe, if I may presume to say so, that it will be necessary to have it intimated to Lord Orford that his Majesty wishes to have that disposition altered, the greatest inconveniencies being apprehended; and that both battalions should be quartered, as they used to be, at Yarmouth and Dereham. Perhaps this being intimated by Lord Townshend from his Majesty might be a proper channel.<sup>3</sup> However, it was my duty to state these apprehensions; my nephew is so impetuous that I fear nothing but his Majesty's name will control him.<sup>4</sup> I am in great pain at the thought of his commanding the militia at all at present himself, both as it will hurry him too much, and as I fear he will only exhibit scenes that are surely not fit for the public eye.<sup>5</sup>

I never saw Sir John Wodehouse till Thursday last, but he appears a most amiable sensible gentleman, and expresses so much tenderness for my nephew, and at the same time such prudent attention to the public that I cannot doubt but his apprehensions are well founded. I am going to sleep out of town to compose my own mind a little, that is much agitated with these distresses, but shall be back tomorrow by dinner, if you have any commands for, my dear Lord,

Your most obedient

HOR. WALPOLE

### FROM LADY AILESBUURY, June 1778

Missing; mentioned *post* 25 June 1778.

second attack of insanity, announced in his letter to Lord Hertford 31 March 1778, printed in Fortescue, *op. cit.* iv. 89.

3. Townshend was master-general of the Ordnance and a neighbour of Orford's in Norfolk; see SELWYN 169, n. 2 and Townshend to HW 30 Nov. 1791.

4. HW wrote to Lady Ossory 28 Feb. 1789 that at this time 'the King . . . commanded me to prevent [Orford's 'marching to Norwich at the head of the Norfolk

militia'] and . . . I could not' (OSSORY iii. 47-8; see also n. 7). In Aug. Lord Hertford wrote to the King begging him to remove a company of Norfolk militia from Orford (Fortescue, *op. cit.* iv. 190-2).

5. According to HW, Orford wrote in the orderly book at Norwich 'that if the French should land on any part of the coast, the magistrates were to burn the suburbs of that city, which would then be impregnable' (OSSORY iii. 47-8).