

is very disagreeable that the nightingales should sing but half a dozen songs, and the other beasts squall for two months together.

Pray, Madam, tell Lady Lyttelton, for I know she is at Park Place, that I begged Mr Churchill<sup>6</sup> to ask her to meet them and the Cadogans<sup>7</sup> here—not that she would have met them, for they could not come, but are gone a-camping.

Lady H[ertford] sent me word Lord Irwin is dead<sup>8</sup>—I want to know if the borough comes to Lord B[eauchamp].

Poor Mrs Clive has been robbed again in her own lane, as she was last year, and has got the jaundice, she thinks with the fright. I don't make a visit without a blunderbuss;<sup>9</sup> so one might as well be invaded by the French. Though I live in the centre of ministers, I do not know a syllable of politics—and though within hearing of Lady Greenwich, who is but two miles off,<sup>10</sup> I have not a word of news to send your Ladyship. I live like Berecynthia<sup>11</sup> surrounded by nephews and nieces; big and little I have fifteen near me; yet Park Place is full as much in my mind, and I beg for its history.

Your most faithful,

H. W.

### TO HERTFORD, July 1778

Missing; answered Hertford to HW *post* 8 July 1778.

i. 452, n. 23); HW's writing 'not' is an apparent slip.

6. Charles Churchill, HW's brother-in-law.

7. Hon. Charles Sloane Cadogan (*ante* 20 April 1764, n. 11), 3d Bn Cadogan, 1776, m. (1777) Mary Churchill (*ante* 6 July 1754, n. 5), dau. of Charles Churchill; see FAMILY 152–3.

8. Lord Irvine, Beauchamp's father-in-law (see *ante* 25 Sept. 1775), died without male issue 19 June, when the borough of Horsham, of which he owned the majority of burgages, devolved upon his widow. Upon her death in 1807 Beauchamp (then Lord Hertford) inherited the burgages, which he sold in 1811 to Charles, 11th

Duke of Norfolk, who had begun buying up the non-Irvine property in 1778 with a view to contesting the Irvine interest there (W. Albery, *Parliamentary History of . . . Horsham*, 1927, pp. 114, 128, 252–4 *et passim*).

9. That is, his footman who went with him in his carriage carried one.

10. HW calls her a 'shrill *Morning Post*' *ante* 16 Oct. 1774.

11. A surname of Cybelé, the Asiatic goddess of procreation, who was worshipped, among other places, upon Mount Berecynthus in Phrygia (*Harper's Dictionary of Classical Literature and Antiquities*, ed. H. Thurston Peck, New York, 1923, pp. 205, 1370–1).