

or ever did make me advise you to take a step unworthy of yourself. —But surely you have higher and more sacred duties than the government of a molehill!

TO LADY AILESBUURY, before Thursday 14 October 1779

Missing; mentioned *post* 28 Oct. 1779.

TO HERTFORD, ca Tuesday 26 October 1779

Missing; answered *post* 27 Oct. 1779.

FROM HERTFORD, Wednesday 27 October 1779

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23219, f. 107. Dated by HW, 'Oct. 27. 1779.'

Address: To the Honourable Hor. Walpole.

Thames Ditton, Wednesday 2 o'clock.

Dear Horry,

I AM much concerned that we cannot see you tomorrow, and more so that pain confines you.¹ Your letter² looks nothing like a finished campaign, and it is so circumstantial and so natural that I believe it in contradiction to the commonly received opinion and, I may add, to any intelligence our Ministers receive, for which I have no great respect.³ My brother has an order for a frigate whenever he chooses to employ it for his return, but he has not yet sent

prorogued until 7 Oct., but on that date it was again prorogued until 25 Nov., when it finally met (*Journals of the House of Commons* xxxvii. 460–1). Conway arrived back in London 21 Nov. (OSSORY ii. 142, n. 13).

1. See *post* 28 Oct. 1779.

2. Missing.

3. HW wrote to Lady Ossory 27 Oct. 1779: 'I have reason to believe that the combined fleets will again appear before the conclusion of the campaign, though the Government thinks not' (OSSORY ii. 129). See *post* 28 Oct. 1779.