

lost.⁶ Shocking misery; in the midst of all, our friends thank God are well.

Yours ever,

HERTFORD

From LADY AILESURY, Monday 15 January 1781

Missing. Mentioned in the postscript of HW to Lady Ossory 14 Jan. 1781: 'Monday. Col. Conway was with me an hour this morning and has given me such an account of their voyage as makes me shudder; and I have since received a note from Lady Ailesbury to tell me her husband is in bed with the rheumatism and fatigue' (OSSORY ii. 270).

To HERTFORD, ca Monday 15 January 1781

Missing; answered *post* 17 Jan. 1781.

could for that purpose consistent with the safety of his M[ajesty]'s ship. After beating about therefore from the time we passed the Needles (which was about 5 on Tuesday evening) in hard gales of wind we were obliged to put in here this morning where the *R. Charlotte*, armed ship which had parted company with us in the gale yesterday, soon followed. Your Lordship will have [been] fully apprised of the happy issue of the silly attempt of the French on the island of Jersey, and as I thereby see no particular call for my immediate presence there, unless it be his Majesty's pleasure I should go, I pro-

pose coming soon to town and having the honour to pay my duty to him there' (S.P. 47/9). See also OSSORY loc. cit.; MANN loc. cit.

6. HW mentions the fears for this cutter in his letters to Lady Ossory 14 Jan. and to Mann 18 Jan. (OSSORY ii. 269; MANN loc. cit.). According to depositions enclosed in Conway to Hillsborough 2 Sept. 1781 (S.P. 47/9), the *Sprightly* cutter of Guernsey sailed from Portsmouth 8 Jan. towing the sailboat *Le Hazard*; the latter was lost but the *Sprightly* reached Guernsey 9 Jan.