

FROM HERTFORD, Wednesday 17 January 1781

Printed for the first time from a photostat of BM Add. MSS 23219, f. 119.

Address: To the Honourable Hor. Walpole, Arlington Street [a slip for Berkeley Square].

Grosvenor Street, January 17th 1781.

Dear Horry,

I THANK you for your note¹ and hope in God there is no reason for alarm about my brother.² The King was vastly gracious about him, talked aloud about him at the levee³ and spoke very properly about his illness, and as if it was acquired in his service at a time when he was not very fit for what he has undergone.

Yours ever,

HERTFORD

1. Missing.

2. HW expressed his concern about Conway in letters to Mann 18 Jan., to Lady Ossory 25 Jan., and to Mason 27 Jan., and finally went to visit Conway at Park Place from 28 Jan. until the 31st (MANN ix. 115-16, 119; OSSORY ii. 270-1, 272; MASON ii. 96, 99, 100). On 17 Jan. Conway wrote Hillsborough from Park Place, 'The situation I have found myself in for these three last days has thrown me into the greatest anxiety. It was my intention as I believe I informed your Lordship, after passing here in my road from Plymouth which is but twelve miles out of the way to have proceeded immediately to London in order to pay my duty to his Majesty and receive his commands but on the night of my arrival being seized with violent pain in the arm I had some time ago fractured and at the same time with a fever and rheumatic pains all over my body I have been unable for the first

three days to stir from my bed, and even with difficulty to move in it. I have been up for a few hours today, and propose the first moment I am able to come to town' (S.P. 47/9, in Lady Ailesbury's hand, signed by Conway).

3. The *Morning Herald* 18 Jan. reported, 'Yesterday there was a levee at St James's, at which but few of the nobility, except the Duke of Montagu, Master of the Horse, and the ministers of state, were present; the Council was put off till Friday; Lords Amherst, Hillsborough, North, and Bellamont had separate conferences previous to his Majesty's going to the play.' According to the *London Chronicle* 16-18 Jan., xlix. 62, 'Last night [17 Jan.] their Majesties were at Drury Lane Theatre. . . attended by the Duke of Montague; the Earls of Waldegrave, Talbot, and Hertford; Lady Hertford, Miss Vernon, and Miss Jefferies.'