

From LADY AILESBUURY, Sunday 21 January 1781

Printed from the MS now WSL; first printed in Cunningham vii. 502-3. For the history of the MS see *ante* 9 Aug. 1767.

MR Conway is writing to you¹ at this present minute, much against my good-will and advice, but he is too much hurt with that brutal letter of Lord H[illsborough]'s² to be quiet till he gives you an account of it; I cannot express the anxiety and indignation I feel at finding him so ungratefully treated,³ after all he has done and suffered for his duty. I need not recapitulate it to you, yet I can't help repeating his having passed four months in Jersey in '81,⁴ and seven months last year,⁵ and new-modelling all things with such success in the island as to have had the approbation and thanks of his Majesty.⁶ On this occasion you know he rather flew than travelled, and at the peril of his life attempted to get to Jersey,⁷ for which he

1. Actually to Hertford, as Lady Ailesbury says at the end of this letter; his letter of 21 Jan., now WSL, is printed in Cunningham vii. 501-2, n. 1, and was sent in the packet which Hertford mentions *post* 23 Jan. 1781.

2. Hillsborough's 'private' and official letters of 19 Jan. to Conway are now WSL (copies in S.P. 47/9), and printed in part in Cunningham vii. 500-1, n. 1. Hillsborough wrote, 'I have received the favour of your private letter dated from Park Place 17 instant [*ante* 17 Jan. 1781, n. 2], and am extremely sorry your intentions of coming to town have been prevented by so disagreeable a cause. The King is very far from wishing you to remove from Park Place a minute sooner than you can do it with perfect safety; and I am directed by his Majesty to send you a further leave of absence from your Government on account of the state of your health, as otherwise the circumstances of that island might seem to require your attendance.'

3. Conway wrote Hertford 21 Jan., 'I have, from the first, thought that there was something wrong at bottom. I had not from Lord Hillsborough the smallest word of approbation, or thanks, on my return, when I explained to him the state of my health from hence [*ante* 17 Jan. 1781, n.

2]. I received from him in return the cold formal letter . . . accompanied with a formal *leave of absence*, on account of my health, which his Lordship styles a *farther leave of absence*, though no leave of absence did actually exist, nor have I, nor any other governor of either island, I apprehend for these fifty years, had any *leaves of absence* at all, except when having voluntarily gone over to the island.'

4. A mistake for 1778; see *ante* 25 June 1778 and next note.

5. That is, 1779, when Conway was there, from May through Nov. (*ante* 8 May 1779, n. 1, 13 Sept. 1779, n. 6). In letters to Hillsborough 25 May 1780 and 10 Feb. 1781 Conway mentions his 'seven months' in Jersey in 1779, and his total of 'eleven months' residence' (S.P. 47/9).

6. The *London Chronicle* 23-5 Nov. 1779 (xlvi. 502) reported, 'On Tuesday evening Gen. Conway arrived in town from his government of Jersey, was yesterday at Court, and laid before his Majesty the state of that island on his departure, which is now so strongly fortified that they are under no apprehension of another visit from the French.'

7. See *ante* 8 Jan. 1781, n. 4; 14 Jan. 1781, n. 5.