

Paris.<sup>5</sup> What can one believe? Well, I will go to bed, and try to dream of peace and plenty; and though my lawn is burnt, and my peas and beans, and roses and strawberries parched, I will bear it with patience till the harvest is got in. Saint Swithin can never hold his water for forty days, though he can do the contrary. Good night!

Yours ever,

O.

### From LADY AILESBURY, Friday ?September 1793

Printed from the MS now wsl; first printed Toynbee *Supp.* iii. 307-8. The MS was sold Sotheby's 5 Dec. 1921 (Waller Sale, lot 1) with the MS of Lord Hardwicke to Lord Orford 27 Nov. 1743 (lot 2) to Philip Yorke for 18s.; resold Sotheby's 27 Feb. 1962 (Philip Yorke Sale, lot 483) to Maggs for wsl.

Dated after 5 Dec. 1791, when HW became Earl of Orford, and before 12 Oct. 1793, when Conway became field marshal. The reference to alterations at Park Place suggests a date between July and Sept. 1793 (see below, n. 4).

Park Place, Friday.

My dear Lord,

**Y**OU will say there is no end of Park Place nonsense, yet who can be more partial to it than yourself?

Sent by General Conway<sup>1</sup> to Mrs Montagu<sup>2</sup> with two garden-swords to be used as scythes:

5. According to the *London Chronicle* 13-16 July, 'The report of the capture of Nantes is now contradicted beyond all doubt; and we learn by the French Gazettes of the 7th and 8th instant that the Republican army has gained some advantages in the Vendée country'; this was confirmed in the next issue 16-18 July (lxxiv. 56, 59-60). But the *Times* 19 July reported that 'the pretended brilliant successes of the Patriots against the Royalists of La Vendée and Brittany' were exaggerated and the Royalists 'are still sufficiently near to Nantes to cannonade that town with red hot balls.' See OSSORY iii. 183 and n. 5.

1. He was appointed field marshal 12 Oct. 1793 and kissed hands 6 Nov. 1793

(BERRY ii. 38, n. 4). Mrs Damer wrote Mary Berry 1 Nov., 'Another question I did not answer was about my father's new title. He is called Marshal, as he was called General, and that he used always to prefer (not being of the Duke of Argyle's opinion), in which he was right I think, for all ought to think their profession, be it what it may, their best title' (*Berry Papers*, ed. Lewis Melville, 1914, p. 110).

2. Elizabeth Robinson (1720-1800), m. (1742) Edward Montagu; bluestocking, 'Queen of the Blues.' Her country seat was Sandleford Priory, Berks (see MORE 321). After her first visit to Park Place, 4-6 Aug. 1791, she wrote to Mrs Carter, 9 Aug.: 'On Thursday last I went to Park Place on a visit to Lady Aylesbury. . . . I