tions; leave their poor heads no time to think of what they ought to think of, the next campaign. Call for papers. Don't mind being refused. Talk of their waste, ask for pension lists, inquire after those scandalous ones to the widows or wives of Bradshaw,[4] Nuthall,[5] Fordyce.[6] Lament the hard fate of the *poor country gentlemen* who must pay for all this waste, and the enormous expenses of the war, too. Inquire how much of the national debt has been paid in twelve years[7]—and how much the late addresses[8] have cost. Ask if £5000 has not been sent this year to bribe the Indians,[9] who yet have not

bling your Grace at this time, if I were not most thoroughly persuaded, that there is a very particular call of honour and conscience, on all those of your Grace's situation and of your sentiments, to do something towards preventing the ruin of your country; which if I am not quite visionary, is approaching with the greatest rapidity. . . . [Y]our Grace can do more than anybody else, at all times; at this time nobody but your Grace, can do, what I apprehend to be for the most essential service to the public' (*The Correspondence of Edmund Burke,* ed. T. W. Copeland, Chicago, 1958– , iii. 217–18).

4. Elizabeth Wilson, m. (1757) Thomas Bradshaw (1733–74), M.P., secretary of the Treasury 1767–70 and a lord of the Admiralty 1772–4. Overwhelmed with debts, Bradshaw is said to have committed suicide; shortly after his death his widow received a secret service pension of £500 a year and £300 a year for his children (OSSORY i. 214 n. 2; CONWAY iii. 210 n. 4; *Last Journals* i. 407; Namier and Brooke ii. 110–11).

5. ———, m. 1 Hambleton Costance; m. 2 (1757) Thomas Nuthall (d. 7 March 1775), solicitor to the Treasury. 'The widow of Nuttal, . . . who had embezzled £19,000, had a pension of £300 a year to induce her to give up her husband's papers, who had been engaged in many election matters' (*Last Journals* i. 469–70).

6. Lady Margaret Lindsay (1753–1814), 2d dau. of the 5th E. of Balcarres, m. 1 (1770) Alexander Fordyce (d. 1789); m. 2 (1812) Sir James Bland Burges (after 1821, Lamb), 1st Bt., 'Lady Margaret Fordyce, wife of that infamous banker who had ruined so many, and driven two or three persons to make away with their own lives, had a pension' (ibid. i. 469).

7. The total national debt in 1763, at the end of the financial year, was £132.6 million; in 1775 it was £127.3 million, a reduction of £5.3 million from twelve years earlier (B. R. Mitchell, *Abstract of British Historical Statistics,* Cambridge, 1962, p. 402). 'It [the American war] had already cost three millions, as much as had been pretended, and but pretended, to be paid of the national debt after twelve years of peace' (*Last Journals* i. 478, *sub* Oct. 1775).

8. '6th [September 1775]. The Court procured by money an address to the King from the Jacobites of Manchester, advising him to prosecute the war. This was immediately followed by Liverpool, and Lancaster, and Leicester; which being trading towns, the addresses must have been dearly bought. They were followed by Poole, Coventry, Warwick, Exeter, Beverley, Gloucester, Suffolk, Taunton, Dover, and Devonshire, and with a very ill-attended one from Yarmouth. [King's] Lynn was said to have addressed. . . . Leith and Montrose, in Scotland, addressed, but Edinburgh and Glasgow refused. . . . The Mayor and Aldermen of Bristol addressed, but near a thousand of the merchants there soon presented a counter-address' (ibid. i. 474–5). The addresses were printed or mentioned in several newspapers during September and October 1775; see MANN viii. 132 n. 2; CONWAY iii. 270 n. 8; Copeland, op. cit. iii. 223 n. 2.

9. Perhaps an allusion to funds allocated to buy presents for the Indians, with the aim of securing their assistance against the American colonists. Lord Dartmouth, the secretary of state for the American department, wrote to the commander-in-chief, Gen. Thomas Gage, 2 Aug. 1775: 'The steps which you say the [American] rebels have taken for calling