

Col. Lenox is much better. The Duchess of Leinster³⁵ had a letter from Goodwood today which says he rides out.³⁶ I am glad you do. I said nothing on *the Charming Man's* poem³⁷—I fear I said too much to him himself—he said, others liked it, and showed me a note from Mr Burke that was hyperbole itself.³⁸ I wish him so well, that I am sorry he should be so flattered, when in truth he has no genius; there is no novelty, no plan, and no suite in his poetry, though many of the lines are pretty. Dr Darwin alone can exceed his predecessors.

Let me repeat to both, that distance of place and time can make no alteration in my friendship: It grew from esteem for your characters and understandings and tempers, and became affection from your good-natured attentions to me, where there is so vast a disproportion in our ages. Indeed that complaisance spoiled me, but I have weaned myself of my own self-love, and you shall hear no more of its dictates. Adieu!

PS. I had left myself no room but this to tell you I have seen Pepys but once since I came to town. Now I shall meet him sometimes. Mr Batt always inquires after you. Lady Cecilia is in bed with a cold. I have been at Lady Herries's tonight;³⁹ she is better and begins to crawl about a little.

1788 until his death, he 'conformed in all respects to the Jewish religion' (DNB). See also the discussion of the satirical prints dealing with his conversion, in BM, *Satiric Prints*, vi. Nos. 7423–5, 8249; 'Mem. 1783–91,' sub 10 Dec. 1787, 28 Jan. 1788.

35. That is, the Dowager Duchess: Emilia Mary Lennox (1731–1814), dau. of 2d D. of Richmond; aunt of Colonel Lennox, afterwards (1806) 4th D. of Richmond; m. (1) (1747) James FitzGerald (1722–73), 20th E. of Kildare, cr. (1766) D. of Leinster; m. (2) (1774) William Ogilvie, her children's tutor. At this time she was at her house in Harley Street (*Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser* 2 Feb. 1791).

36. 'Colonel Lenox is quite recovered . . . at Goodwood House' (*Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser* 7 March 1791).

37. Edward Jerningham, *The Shakespeare Gallery: a Poem*, 1791; advertised 'This day was published' in *St James's Chronicle* 18–20 Jan. 1791; *Oracle* 19 Jan.

1791. A second edition also appeared in 1791 (BM Cat.).

38. Burke wrote to Jerningham 18 Jan. 1791: 'I owe you my best thanks for the obliging present you have made me of your fine poem on "The Shakespeare Gallery." I have not for a long time seen anything so well finished. You have caught new fire by approaching, in your Perihelion, so near to the sun of our poetical system. How long will the astronomers calculate the time before you can cool? The painters have warmed their imaginations at the same reservoir of heat and light. You reflect new rays on them. Their pictures have never been before placed in a light so advantageous to them' (*Edward Jerningham and His Friends*, ed. Lewis Bettany, 1919, p. 38). The editor notes (*ibid.* 39) that 'Burke's praise . . . though seemingly enthusiastic, is really very artfully guarded.'

39. Lady Herries lived at 16 St James's Street (*Directory to the Nobility, Gentry* . . . for 1793).