

HORACE WALPOLE'S CORRESPONDENCE

From MANN, Tuesday 26 January 1745 NS

Written on black-bordered paper. Parts of the first and fourth paragraphs were printed in Doran i. 210-11.

Florence, January 26, 1745 NS.

My dear child,

JUDGE from the mourning of my paper how dismal everything is here. I believe you never saw any like it before; here everybody uses it but myself. I begged a sheet for this occasion only, and another to keep for a curiosity. Madame Royale¹ was very unpolite to die just at the beginning of Carnival, to deprive us of all its diversions, though nobody will be persuaded that ought to have been the consequence. I have prevailed on the Regency to let the *Livornesi* divert themselves. Their opera has been restored, for which I am in high favour with that little town; but by this I have drawn the *Fiorentini* upon me, who are angry to see Leghorne preferred, and that I would not make representations in their favour too. It was impossible to succeed; therefore I did not attempt it. Prince and Princess Craon whine for the loss of that good Princess as if they were really sorry for her; and then they were so nearly related, and loved² each other so perfectly. In short, all the ridiculous cant that you can suppose. Have you heard of Prince Beauveau's good fortune? Besides being made *Grand d'Espagne*,³ the King of France complimented him publicly on his future marriage with Mademoiselle de Bouillon,⁴ before anything was agreed upon, but that has fixed it. The Craons are in great joy; they won't accept compliments, but don't refuse them.

I now come to tell you bad news: the Spaniards most undoubtedly will be in Tuscany within the next month.⁵ I have for a long time told

1. The Gr[eat] Duke's mother (HW).

2. Madame Royale went once to Paris to complain to her brother the Regent of her husband's amour with the Princesse de Craon (HW). See *ante* 29 Aug. 1743 OS, n. 7.

3. His nomination as grandee of Spain of the first rank was announced in the *Gazette de France*, 3 April NS (*Répertoire . . . de la Gazette de France*, ed. de

Granges de Surgères, 1902-6, i. 282).

4. The Duc de Bouillon's daughter, Marie-Sophie-Charlotte de la Tour d'Auvergne (1729-63), called Mlle de Bouillon; m. (3 April 1745) Charles-Just de Beauvau, Prince de Beauvau (La Chenaye-Desbois ii. 742).

5. They did not come until May (*post* 18 May 1745 NS).