

Mr Foley that it may reach you safely. I need not express my anxiety to hear you are well, nor add more to represent the very critical situation in which all the above-mentioned circumstances constitute me. Adieu then.

Yours ever,

H. M.

I should have mentioned that even the republic of Lucca has named their envoy,¹² and that he only waits for a permission to present his credentials.

FROM MANN, Friday 25 October 1765

Part of the second paragraph was printed in Doran ii. 150.

Florence, October 25th 1765.

MY last contained great complaints of your silence, but I am now happy in having received your first letter¹ from Paris, which has dissipated my apprehensions of your ill health, to which I attributed it, though I endeavoured to persuade myself that it might be owing to the irregularity of the posts. This, I still find, has had some share in the delay, for your letter was twenty days on the road, though nine or ten, Count Lorenzi tells me, is the common course. I am very sorry, my dear Sir, to see by it that you do not approve of my applying for an increase of character, and so much the more as things are so constituted at present that that circumstance seems absolutely necessary both from public and private considerations. The example of other Courts must naturally influence ours in a double light. Its own dignity in regard to itself requires the having a minister here equal to those from other princes, at the same time that such a compliment to the Great Duke seems the more necessary, as the omission of it now must be interpreted as a disattention. These two considerations absorb all others, and leave none for favour or partiality for the person employed, excepting in the choice of him preferable to another. You say that such a solicitation might interfere with the ribband. I feel the force of that objection,

12. Santini (*post* 25 Oct. 1765).

1. *Ante* 26 Sept. 1765.