

ing to see one of my servants, halted to ask him if I was at home. He said I was. The servant inquired of him what house they were going to, but he made no answer and proceeded on. As soon as I was informed of it, I went to all the public houses and then to the Bologna gate, where I was told they had passed, and proposed to stop at the first post from hence. Lady William did not speak or even look at the servant, but hung down her head, whether not to [be] seen or from any other cause I cannot judge. I have given this account of her to General Conway, and have taken this opportunity to congratulate him on his new post. Be so good to convey my letter to him. I have not time at present to write more.

PS. I have been employed in a very melancholy scene, that of assisting a very worthy man who was most friendly attached to me, Mr Patch, of whom you may have heard my nephew speak. He was attacked yesterday morning with an apoplexy in my house, but finding himself ill, went across the street to his own and threw himself on his bed. I was sent for, but found him speechless. He languished for a few hours, and expired this morning.<sup>2</sup>

I send this letter loose, not knowing if Mr Sneyd<sup>3</sup> continues in the secretary's office.

### To MANN, Sunday 5 May 1782

*Memoranda* (by HW in ink on the back, *ante* 13 April 1782) for this letter. He crossed out the entries here indicated by asterisks as he used them in the present letter.

Fleet\*  
 peace\*  
 Rumbold\*  
 bills\*  
 reform\*  
 Laura  
 Emp[eror]. Pope.  
 chimney sw[eeeps] weather\*

May 5th 1782.

I HAVE given the new administration time to breathe—that is, I did not send you details of removals and preferments, that were

2. On 1 March 1783, the *Gazzetta toscana* xviii. 36 advertised that 'at the address of the heirs of Signore Tommaso Patch in the Fondaccio di S. Spirito is for sale the first cast of the famous gate by Ghiberti for the church of S. Giovanni

in this city, with other rare busts, and statues of plaster and of marble, pictures, engravings, bronzes, etc.'

3. Jeremiah Sneyd remained chief clerk in the secretary of state's office until ca 1791 (*ante* vii. 443, n. 6).