

see or hear anything—and if the town intends to do anything, they never begin to do it till next day.

Mr Conway will certainly be here the end of this month,<sup>1</sup> having thoroughly secured his island<sup>2</sup> from surprise, and it is not liable to be taken any other way. I wish he was governor of this bigger one too, which does not seem quite so well guaranteed.

Your Lordship will wonder at a visit I had yesterday: it was from Mr [Storer], who has passed a day and night here. It was not from my being a fellow-scholar of Vestris,<sup>3</sup> but from his being turned antiquary;<sup>4</sup> the last patina I should have thought a Macaroni would have taken. I am as proud of such a disciple as of having converted Dicky Bateman<sup>5</sup> from a Chinese to a Goth. Though he was the founder of the Sharawadgi<sup>6</sup> taste in England, I preached so effectually that his every pagoda took the veil.<sup>7</sup> The Methodists say, one must have been very wicked before one can be of the elect—yet is that extreme more distant from *the ton*, which avows knowing and liking nothing but the fashion of the instant, to studying what were the modes of five hundred years ago? I hope this conversion will not ruin Mr [Storer]'s fortune under the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.<sup>8</sup> How his Irish Majesty will be shocked, when he asks how large Prince B[oothby]'s shoe-buckles are grown, to be answered, he does not know, but that Charles Brandon's<sup>9</sup> codpiece at the last Birthday had

1. He did not return until Sunday 26 Aug., when he called on HW at SH, on his way to Park Place (*post* 31 Aug. 1781).

2. 'General Conway is gone to Jersey with strong additional force' (HW to Hon. Thomas Walpole 25 March 1781).

3. The elder Vestris, Gaetano Appollino Baldassare Vestris (1729–1808), ballet dancer who was teaching dancing in London at this time; see OSSORY ii. 268 and n. 7.

4. See OSSORY ii. 273 and n. 4.

5. Richard Bateman (ca 1705–73), collector. For an account of his house and collection, see Thomas E. Harwood, *Windsor Old and New*, 1929, pp. 313–34.

6. See MANN iv. 127, n. 54. Miles Hadfield, *A History of British Gardening*, 1969, p. 177n, says that the word is 'probably . . . of Japanese origin, from *souro*, of which the negative participle is *sorowa-ji*, "not being symmetrical." See also *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 1963, xxii. No. 2, p. 128.

7. 'I converted it [Bateman's house] from Chinese to Gothic' (HW to Montagu 24 Sept. 1762, MONTAGU ii. 43, opposite Müntz's Gothic design, 1761, for a room at Bateman's house).

8. Storer's intimate friend, Frederick Howard, 5th E. of Carlisle, was lord lieutenant of Ireland 1780–2. On Carlisle's interest, Storer was elected M.P. Carlisle 1774–80 and Morpeth 1780–4; in 1778 he went to America as Carlisle's assistant on the conciliatory commission to the colonies; but Storer received no appointment in Ireland, and their friendship was severed in 1783 when Storer accepted an appointment for which he was indebted to Fox. See Sir Lewis Namier and John Brooke, *House of Commons 1754–1790*, 1964, iii. 485–7.

9. Henry VIII's brother-in-law, Charles Brandon (ca 1484–1545), cr. (1514) D. of Suffolk. He and those mentioned later in this paragraph were prominent at the court of Henry VIII.