

greatly established his courage, he is as regular in his duty, and submits as patiently to all the tedious exiles and fatigues of it, as if he had no merit at all—but I will say no more, lest you imagine that the present warmth of my gratitude makes me exaggerate—no, you will not, when you know that all I have said, relates to your own brother Colonel Charles Montagu. I did not think he could have added still to my satisfaction, but he has, by giving me hopes of seeing you in town next week—till then adieu!

Yours as entirely as is consistent with
my devotedness to your brother

HOR. WALPOLE

PS. I must not forget to thank you much for your pork.

TO MONTAGU, Tuesday 20 April 1756

Arlington Street, April 20, 1756.

YOUR steward called on me just as I was going to keep my Newmarket¹ at Strawberry Hill; he promised to leave me the direction to the statuary;² but as I have not heard from him, I wish you would send it me.

The cold and the wet have driven me back to London, empty London! where we are more afraid of the deluge than the invasion. The French are said to be sailed for Minorca,³ which I hold to be a good omen of their not coming hither, for if they took England, Port Mahon I should think would scarcely hold out.

Pray don't die, like a country body, because it is the fashion for gentlefolks to die in London; it is the *bon ton* now to die; one can't show one's face without being a death's head: Mrs Bethel and I are come strangely into fashion; but true critics in mode object to our having underjaws, and maintain that we are not dead *comme il faut*.

1. Newmarket races opened 19 April, the day after Easter; HW alludes to his annual Easter houseparty (see below, n. 26).

2. James Lovell (*post* 28 Aug. 1756). His shop was near Cavendish Square (GM 1760, xxx. 201). Mrs K. A. Esdaille has kindly supplied the following list of his works:

Monument to Benjamin Lord Mildmay (d.

1759), Chelmsford. 'Very fine ornate work.'

Wolfe monument, Westerham.

Mantelpiece in the state bedchamber at Stowe.

Two marble chimney-pieces in the state dining-room, Stowe.

Montagu monument, Horton.

3. They besieged Port Mahon, which fell 29 June.