

Aix la Chapelle 27 August 1766

Dear Bess

B 3/30/134  
~~3/29/33~~

At length I have got within seven leagues  
of home; perhaps you find it difficult to reconcile  
that with the date on the top of this page; but sure  
you know it is the people & not the soil who make  
the country; and half England, aye & half Ireland  
too, are at this moment assembled seven leagues  
from hence at Spa. Having told you where I am, let  
me not forget to mark the date of my last letter to you,  
It was written from Strasburg on 21 June; since which  
Though I have not passed over a territory altogether as  
large as England, I have been in the dominions of seven  
princes; I stop'd at almost all, and found everywhere  
the utmost degree of courtesy; the same state, in minick  
and more forms, are maintained at these courts, than  
at St James's; but some of them having more sense than  
the others, abate so much of these, or confine them  
so much to their own people, that I enjoy'd the coun-  
try with them almost as much as I should at Castle  
Lauderdale; & let me tell you that when I say so, I pay  
them a very great compliment: Among these the Duke  
of Wurtemberg's, tho perhaps not the most considerate  
is one of those of whom an account is most likely to enter  
later



tain you; he maintains in perpetual pay a company  
of French players, & another of the Italian Barletta, both  
very good in their kind, dressed in the richest & great  
variety of habits; a troop of dancers, of whom the figurers  
might appear with credit upon another stage; and  
the best band of music I have heard, not excepting  
that at the Opera in London, scarcely that of the King  
at Naples. Longelli is at their head, & receives £600  
a year; besides there, he has another magni-  
ficent theatre expressly for serious Operas during  
the Carnival to celebrate which & his own birth day  
he assembled the most select hands of Italy, and gave  
a fest in fireworks illuminations &c. that generally  
cost from 30 to £50,000 — In his private stables, inde-  
pendent of all military, I saw 550 horses, a scarcely  
number in comparison of above 1200, to which they  
amounted till within this twelvemonth when the  
State by complaint to the Empire obliged him to  
reduce them to the number already mentioned —  
After I have told you that he is married to one of  
the most beautiful & most amiable women in Germany,  
from whom however he has been some years separated,  
you will perhaps feel some sentiment rise when  
I add to these establishments, the article of female  
favourites, whom he selects from the most beautiful  
of his theatrical subjects — and with so little manage-

for his Court, or the ladies of it, that all of the <sup>cors</sup> ~~delegates~~  
whom he receives into the Seraglio appear upon the  
stage in the distinguishing honour of a pair of blue shoes.  
To this act it w<sup>d</sup> be ungrateful not to add that he  
is extremely polite & even attentive to strangers; I find  
supper every day at Court & visited preparing to take my  
leave after eight days; I had here an opportunity  
for the first time of seeing Wild boars; being fed in a  
particular little close in the forest during the frost; they  
readily repair thither at all other times upon the sound  
of a whistle and at a signal given all the doors fall at  
once & shut them in; where I saw them as near as best  
to their <sup>as I wished to be</sup>; for on finding their retreat  
cut off, they became very furious, and we were  
very glad to secure ourselves upon high posts con-  
structed for the purpose, till the doors were lifted up for their  
escape. It is an ugly & horrid animal, I have brought  
away with me the tusks of one of them, the sight of which  
w<sup>d</sup> be sufficient for you. I am or will, or I think I shall  
be able to persuade them that the owner, I do not mean myself,  
war at their heels.

Tomorrow I set off for Spa, & then roads so precious  
that I have the satisfaction to learn that the seven leagues  
will cost me 8 hours — I stay there from 4 days to  
a fortnight according to the company I find there; and  
thence by little variation from the straight road thro a  
part of Flanders to Paris — there under the same condi-  
tions, I propose to stay from 3 weeks to two months.





which, not at all to my dissatisfaction either for where  
 I have been, or shall then find myself, I hope to meet  
 with no farther interruption in my returns my friends  
 my dear Bess it will be, believe me no small abatement  
 that I shall see only some of them - but the day for seeing  
 the others also I hope is not far off. In the mean time pray  
 remember me with respect where due & with affection to all  
 the rest, as well those I know, as your little ones whom I have yet to  
 know. Write to me aux Joins de Press<sup>es</sup> Foley St. banguier, c.  
 Paris & with immediately that your letter may reach me there  
 & say much of you & yours - not forgetting Plantations &c., & tell me how  
 Mr. Nelson does, & where he does - my dear Bess ever yours. John

25th Nov 1791 - O 1 at 5

AL  
12

To ed Brunelles

To Lady Castlereagh  
 Castle Calanver

Wm Pitt  
 Ireland  
 Angleterre

Wm Pitt  
 Ireland

~~Wm Pitt~~