

## **Notes on Equestrian matters from “Henry, Elizabeth and George: Letters and Diaries of Henry, Tenth Earl of Pembroke and his Circle” edited by Lord Herbert – Vol. 1 – 1734-1780. Jonathan Cape, London, 1939.**

### **Introduction**

After reading Pembroke’s “Military Equitation” I was interested to find out more about the man and his times. I came across two volumes of Letters and Diaries of Henry, Tenth Earl of Pembroke and his Circle, edited and published by Lord Herbert in 1939. I thought that these volumes might help to provide the background information and the wider context for Pembroke’s work. I was hoping that the letters and diaries would be full of descriptions of Pembroke’s travels in Europe, the riders and trainers he met and was influenced by. Unfortunately, Vol. 1 does not provide as much of this as I was hoping. There is some information about Pembroke’s elopement with Kitty Hunter and his consequent partial loss of favour at Court until he returns to his wife a few years later. There is description of his involvement with Elliott’s Light Horse and his own position with the Royals but anything further in terms of the development of his equestrian skills is missing. The majority of Vol. 1 is concerned with his son’s ‘Grand Tour’ in Europe from 1775 to 1780. The letters between father and son do contain some references to Manèges and Écuyers to be visited and early schedules for Lord Herbert’s education whilst abroad indicate that 4 hours per week were to be set aside for riding. Perhaps the most interesting insight, for me, is that offered into Pembroke’s character. The letters from Pembroke are full of news and gossip about home and international politics and events. Then, in the middle, will suddenly appear a comment about one of his horses, usually Aley Bey, and their cost, or a query about some colt he is hoping to be sent. The cost of Aley Bey’s transport to England is a constant gripe for Pembroke but it is clear from others’ correspondence that he is pleased with his purchase. We also see, dotted through the letters, sudden references to people to whom Lord Herbert is to give one of his father’s texts as gifts: Pembroke frequently requests that a book should be given to this or that important person and asks whether enough copies of the text have arrived at some place where his son is settled. The picture of the man that evolves is one of an accomplished politician and soldier statesman who always has half a mind on his stable.

By comparison, his son, Lord Herbert, comes over at times as a rather spoilt, opinionated and petulant youth who sees little to admire in the equestrian skills and horses of the European peoples and courts he visits. There are the occasional exceptions but these are few and far between.

### **The Letters and Diaries**

Lord Herbert, the editor of the letters and diaries, explains some background influences on Pembroke:

“One of his letters to Newcastle written from Florence on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1754, deserves to be mentioned, as it explains the numerous visits to Lyons, and the commencement of one of his chief interests in life, horses.

He wrote: 'I propose leaving this country next week and going immediately to Lyons to a famous *écuyer* [Bougelat]<sup>1</sup> there, having just left another by name Eisenberg [Baron Eisenberg<sup>2</sup> whom he had met in Pisa] whom your Grace may remember to have seen in England, and being I fear as horse mad as my Father was tennisly so, your Grace sees the folly remains. It has only changed its object' (Add. 32,736, f. 571)." (p28-9)

The footnotes below are those of Lord Herbert, editor of the letters:

<sup>1</sup> Claude Bourgelat (1712-1779), founder of the veterinary schools in France. Head of the Academy of Equitation at Lyons and author of works on the horse.

<sup>2</sup> Baron Eisenberg was riding master to the Emperor Francis I. His portrait is at Wilton.

Herbert tells us that Pembroke had been made second in command of the 15<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons (or Elliott's Light Horse) which was a newly founded regiment in 1759. At the end of the year, with a rank of Lieutenant-Colonel he went with his regiment to Germany, where soon after in 1760 he was made Adjutant-General and 1761 saw him promoted again to Major-General and given command of the Cavalry Brigade. Herbert tells us:

"This period of foreign service with cavalry gave Henry the opportunity he had been waiting for to expound his knowledge of horses and the methods of riding which he had learnt in the riding schools of the capitals he had visited during the Grand Tour. The standard of riding in the British Army was at this time very poor, and Henry was determined to improve it on Continental lines. He spared no efforts in this direction, and in 1761 published a book entitled *Military Equitation, or a Method of Breaking Horses and teaching Soldiers to ride*. So successful was it that a second edition was issues in 1763, a third in 1778, a fourth in 1793, and for many years it remained the standard work adopted by the Army. In 1768 he published another book, *Instructions for the Education of Cavalry*, which was translated into French and German" (p30)

"Within a year, on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1764, he was appointed Colonel of the Royals, a position he held until his death thirty years later." (36)

Date	
25 <sup>th</sup> February, 1762	Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann: "Lord Pembroke – Earl, Lord of the Bedchamber, Major General, possessed of ten thousand a year, master of Wilton, husband of one of the most beautiful

	creatures in England, father of an only Son, and himself but eight and twenty to enjoy this assemblage of good fortune – is gone off with Miss Hunter, a handsome girl with a fine person, but silly and in no degree as lovely as his own wife, who has the face of a Madonna, and with all the modesty of that idea, is doatingly fond of him. He left letter resigning all his employments, and one to witness to the virtue of Lady Pembroke. Whom he says he has long tried in vain to make hate and dislike him. It is not yet known whither the guilty couple have bent their course; but you may imagine the distress of the Earl’s family, and the resentment of the House of Marlborough, who doat on their Sister.” (31)
25 <sup>th</sup> September, 1762	Horace Walpole to George Montagu: “... No news yet of the runaways, but all that comes out antecedent to the escape is more and more extraordinary and absurd. The day of the elopement, he had invited his wife’s family and other folk to dinner with her, but said he must himself dine at a tavern; but he dined privately in his own dressing-room, put on a sailor’s habit and black wig, that he had brought home with him in a bundle, and threatened the servants he would murder them if they mentioned it to his wife. He had a letter for her, which the Duke of Marlborough was afraid to deliver her and opened. It desired she would not write to him as it would make him completely mad. He desired the King would preserve his rank of Major General, as some time or other he may serve again.” (32)
22 <sup>nd</sup> March, 1762	Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann: “... London Pembroke is quite forgotten. He and his nymph were brought back by a privateer, who had obligations to her father, but the father desired no such recovery, and they are again gone in quest of adventures. The Earl was so kind as to invite his wife to accompany them; and she, who is all gentleness and tenderness, was with difficulty withheld from acting as mad apart from goodness as he had done from guilt and folly.” (32)
13 <sup>th</sup> April, 1762	Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann: “... It was very true that Miss Hunter was brought back by a privateer, but her father desired that she might be released; so they sailed again. Don’t compassionate Lord Pembroke, he is a worthless young fellow. He does nothing but write tender and mournful letters to his charming wife, which distress her and are intended to draw money from her. He is forgotten here, which is the best thing that can happen to him.” (32)
30 <sup>th</sup> April, 1762	Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann: “... Poor Lay Pembroke has at last acted with spirit. He Lord, being ordered to the German army, wrote that he had a mind to come over first and ask her pardon. To the surprise of her family, and without their instigation, she sent him word that she was surprised he could think of showing himself in England; and for her part she never wishes to see him, till he should have retrieved his character.” (32-3)

Pembroke was ordered to return to the Army and Miss Kitty Hunter returned to England in to await birth of her son on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. In the meantime Pembroke had met and become friends with William Hamilton in 1762. Pembroke seems to have done enough to “retrieve his character” and returned to England in 1763, being officially reconciled with his wife in March 1763. On his elopement Pembroke had lost his

position in the Bedchamber but kept his Lord Lieutenancy of Wiltshire. Once back living with his wife he seemed to recover his reputation and in 1764 he was appointed Colonel of the Royals.

6 <sup>th</sup> March, 1766	Pembroke to Hon. William Hamilton: "I shall be much obliged to you for the Colt, & diver, whenever you will send them me. I must be unconscionable enough to beg you will provide a condottore etc, & send him off as soon as possible, so as o be clear of Italy before the hot weather." (36)
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As a way of giving an idea of Pemroke's character (?), in a letter to his friend, William Hamilton, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1774: "I knew the Pretender's wife at Brussells, & liked her exceedingly, so well, that I should be happy to endeavor to prevent the extinction of the Stuart Line, with a view of mending the breed too, for hitherto it has been a miserable one." (44-5)

Some background information on Major Floyd who features below: "Floyd was eleven when his father died, and Henry immediately placed him in the Army, as Cornet in Elliott's Light Horse, the regiment in which he was second in command, and took him abroad on active service.... Henry taught Floyd all he knew about horses and riding, and when the former became Colonel of the Royals, Floyd was 'borrowed' for a year or so to teach them equitation." (47-8)

Boswell reported of Pembroke: "...but as Astley will pick up a hankerchief while riding full speed, so Lord Pembroke, while he gallops through life, catches ideas which one would not suppose he would." (49)

In preparation for George's tour we have a Memoranda (from Lady Pembroke to Rev. Coxe?). Amongst the items:  
 "Flat Saddle from Wilton, (one Horse with it, & fire off from, and leap over Bar, every day with Floyd, everywhere) Running Snaffle & Bit.  
 Ride with Bit dead slow with Floyd. Few Ecuyers know how.  
 Make fond of Manège, Tennis, Billiards, Shooting, & Reading too, on account of Wilton Residence....  
 Ld H: learn to dress his own hair, to bleed and put on a Horse Shoe occasionally.... (52)

Keep no Horse. ...  
 Tennis Lesson never to exceed one Hour, & to be always taken early, in the coolest part of the morning, &not on riding Days. (53)  
 Riding was planned at 4 hours per week (54)

11 <sup>th</sup> September 1770	Pembroke to William Hamilton: ""If this should reach you before you set out from Naples, do, My Dear old Friend, buy a nimble young lively active colt of any color. The custom of the country is to put as many people, as their length will allow of, on them in their very juvenile days, but I desire mine
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	<p>may never have had one Christian Fesse on him. Nil mihi rescribas, but send me something, pray, at any rate, &amp; at any price immediately so that he may arrive here before the good weather is over. By land, of course, and led by a man on another horse, a good one if you can too, with only a cavesson on his nose. All you do will be right, &amp; greatly oblige me. Pray lose no time.” ..... After signing off: “After this pressing horse beggary, I need not say my Stable is grown old. The Arabian, however, stout as ever, at twenty.” (42)</p>
16 <sup>th</sup> April 1774	<p>Pembroke to Hamilton – after signing off letter “.... Why don’t you get yourself moved from your Equerryship to a Groomship?” (45)</p>
28 <sup>th</sup> November, 1775	<p>Rev. Coxe to Lady Pembroke: “Captain Floyd desires his compliments and he will write in a week, as soon as he has settled the Manège, etc.” (57)</p>
12 <sup>th</sup> April, 1776	<p>Lord Herbert to Lady Pembroke (Strasbourg): “You cannot imagine how much I was hurt at hearing of the death of the old Bay Mare, I am very sorry also for your sake, though I do not see any reason why you are to be pitied, for in my opinion you have got one living hat is much fitter for you than she was, which is the Iron-Grey Horse, who I hope is in perfect health, as well as the rest. We have bought one Horse, a very handsome one, but we want another, but it is a hard matter to get one in this Town. I wrote to my friend Harry Coward<sup>1</sup> yesterday, for fearing he should be affronted at our buying a Horse without letting him know and consulting him about something of other concerning him.” (75)  [<sup>1</sup> Henry Coward is described in Lord Pembroke’s will (drawn 1788) as ‘my House Steward and manège rider at Wilton’]</p>
28 <sup>th</sup> March 1777	<p>From Pembroke to Rev Coxe:  “Poor Huntingdon has had a bad strain behind, in the night, in his stall, with his halter, but, as he is in full vigor, I trust he will recover it is well as ever, though he is much stricken in years.”  “...The horses must not be reformed, for they are very usefull.” (99)  Pembroke lists all the places Coxe is to ensure George is taken to during his Grand Tour: "Pray go to all the Courts, &amp; to all the Manèges" (101)</p>
August-Nov 1777	<p>From Floyd's journal: Vienna, October "26th. Presented to the Empress. Rode in the Manège several times. November 4th. St. Hubert. Great hunt; the Emperor was mounted on an English horse." (105)</p>
April 7th 1778	<p>From Pembroke to Coxe: "My books of Military Equitation shall leave England before this letter does, &amp; I own I should be sorry they did not reach Vienna before you left it. I shall add a few more for the Kings of Sweden, &amp; Denmark, &amp; to George's packet." (109)</p>
	<p>"I too, but not from modesty, must object to the mention you are so good as to intend making of me in your publication upon Switzerland, &amp; that from love of sacred truth; for know you, by these presents, that, after having chevauchèed, wherever any chevauchèing was to be had in various countrys, I took more trouble to forget all I had learnt, than ever the learning gave me; at all the several places, except two - viz practical riding at Baron Eisenberg's at Pisa, where it was in great perfection, and lastly the</p>

	<p>quintessence both of theory &amp; practice at Mons: Bourgelat's. My first Swiss Master was unequal to reason at all upon his profession, or to instruct much. He had a certain routine, but his hand was iron-hard. I will tell you honestly that my vanity would suffer, if it was thought my principles, or execution resembled his at all - ainsi, de grace, ne me compromettez pas de la sorte avec le monde equestre. Sure, the Vero Maestro Toscano may be found at Vienna. By this time to be sure, you have received mine, in which I told you, with great truth, that any time of your drawing must be quite equal to me. As soon as these books of mine reach you, pray sett off without waiting to hear further from any of us here. ....</p> <p>[details of directions, encouragement to see that George resumes all his lessons and not fall idle, reminders to friends...] I rely on Floyd's settling my horse purchase, or exchange business, before he leaves the country. The Calais door is hardly open now, but the Ostend one allways is, &amp;, should peace take place, possibly again in Spain, but these are distant, uncertain projects. Pray desire George to send me the list of all those whom I desired he would give books of mine, for I have forgot many of them. The sooner he does this, the more I shall be obliged to him, and he will put into it the Kings of Dannemarc, &amp; Sweden. Two lists by two different posts, for fear of accidents. I beg for.....Don't be too political in your letters, any of you, lest they should displeas some Bureau de poste, and therefore never reach me. The Books are not set out yet, but they soon will, I hope" (109-11)</p>
April 27th 1778	<p>Pembroke to Floyd: "I hope you will settle my Horse exchange business for me at least. The best you can find, but, pray, not a small one, and the sooner the better. Your own choice, pray, or not at all, however." (116-7)</p> <p>[Note concerning John Floyd provided by editor: it was through the Duke of Marlborough that he became known to Pembroke. "Floyd was eleven when his father died, and Henry immediately placed him in the Army, as Cornet in Elliot's Light Horse, the regiment in which he was second in command, and took him abroad on active service" (47)]</p>
8th April 1779	<p>From Pembroke to George. A long letter detailing the political situation, discussion of war ships and their deployment, general court gossip: ""I this moment receive a letter from Floyd dated Copenhagen 27 March. Pray return him ten thousand thanks for all the very kind things he says of me &amp; of you too by the by. I see I am not to have a [horse?] but really I do rely entirely upon a Neapolitan one from him, &amp; he had better desire Hamilton to write a&amp; send him to the Naples Minister here, as for him. His name is Pignatelli &amp; he is an honest fellow. If Rugieri is not dead or worn out, ye will see a good rider at Florence. Cavalieri Borghesi, &amp; Mr Fücks are not so good." (165)</p> <p>More on ships, political characters then: "How shall I get Aley Bey? If the scheme I mentioned in a letter to Floyd wont do, Harris had better send him here, as if he belonged to Pouschin-Mouschin, I think." (166)</p>
April 27th 1779	<p>Pembroke to Coxe: Amongst gossip and news, problems of money transfers...: "I am sorry the horse</p>

	treaty did not succeed at Copenhagen. Entreat Floyd to remember me at Naples, pray." (175)
May 20th 1779	<p>Pembroke to George... "I am very glad you gave a Book to Duke Ferdinand. How could I forget it?" (183)</p> <p>"Your old friend, pretty Mr Soderini, &amp; his wife will be very glad to see you at Pisa. Dont forget, pray, to see Rugieri ride at Florence, if he is not too old, &amp; give him a book with my comps:. If you want any more, ye must write imediately to Morris for them. He is a bad figure, but his hand is good, &amp; he works well ... not so, I am afraid, of my friend Mr Fucks there, s'il chevauche encore. Pray forget none of my friends whom I have apprised you of, Abbé Guasco near Verona, etc. Did you see his Brother, the Governor of Prague? Pray is Prince Kinski dead at Vienna?" (185)</p>
May 28th 1779	<p>Pembroke to Herbert: Amongst comments about the death of Floyd's brother, Pembroke adds, seemingly with little tact: "I trust he Major will not forget my Neapolitan horse, whom he may send on to Turin from thence, &amp; settle his journey hither" (187)</p> <p>A little later in the letter amongst discussion about the expense and practical problems of travelling: "Ere this, the man who is gone for the Arabian, is I hope, nearly arrived at Petersbourg. Floyd will be so good as to write orders to Mr Morris to send the Equitation book to the Gentleman, who is so good as to take care of the of the Cocklean there, for that part of his letter is blotted so, that I can not exactly make out his name. I must look then for a Mare for Orlow, &amp; as for a man, I will dress one for him, whenever he pleases, but that business I must leave to Floyd to settle with Orlow by letter. "</p> <p>"What a happy man Field Marshall Razoumowski is to have 30,000 horses!"</p> <p>Discussion follows about what he may expect to find in Turin, specifically at the Turin Academy: "I will tell you fairly, that I shall be glad, if you do go into the Academy for six months, but not, if it is against your grain. You ought, at your age, to judge for yourself, but, if ye suffer yourself to form dislikes to things, beforehand especially, &amp; not to submit to some regularity &amp; rule, ye will grow into being, I fear, an unhappy man, and particularly unfit for a military line of life. Nothing is done in publick, or in company, except Riding, by private Master, &amp; there is a good Tennis court in the Town, which I hope ye will take to, as a noble, fine, manly exercise.</p> <p>The Court, Miss Plunket writes to Lady P, has taken care of all the family. Bourgelat too is gone. Those left behind are not, in general, at all replaced." (188)</p> <p>Later in the same letter, after discussing the countryside:  "Those same Chestnuts of the King of Denmark's breed have hit me hard; so much that if they answer half what Floyd says of them, I would almost venture, in a summer season, to go over myself for one in an open boat. since they can not ride, and so not care about it, they might as well let me have their best nags, I think, &amp; I wish they would think so also" (190)</p>
1779	Instructions from Pembroke to Herbert before entering Italy:

	"At Placentia, pray remark the two Equestrian Statues of Alexander & Raynuce Farnese. The Horse of Raynuce is wonderfully fine" (196)
21st June 1779	Pembroke to Herbert: "The horse I sent to Vienna had naturally a muscular, prominent knee. I saw by their method of shoeing that it would be augmented, & the horse hurt by it. I told Castle so, but found him as steady, as ----etc desunt. I'll do my best for the Major's charger, but he knows but little of Newmarket, if he reckons upon one being found there. Delamotte, late Major to 3rd Drag: Gds is his Lieut:Col:. The riding, by what I hear, is going miserably. His Flewship must offer, & take to that, gratis, next Spring, or it will never do in the 21st, I am afraid. The Duke of Gloster allways enquires very kindly after you. Puschin is going Minister to Sweden, but I hope the Arabian will be here first. Kaësminski is gone to Cambridge." (201)
9th July 1779	Pembroke to Herbert: "I may now reasonably expect the Cocklean here in a few weeks. Tell Flew that I have two stone horses to present to him; a short tailed one for regimental duty, and a long tailed one to dress, as a manège horse. A Majer, says Majer Sturgeon, should allways be in his boots (205) "Remember to see Rugieri ride in Florence" (206)
8 <sup>th</sup> September 1779	Lord Herbert's diary: Describing procession of the Court at Naples: "The procession of the Court consisted of 28 coaches, two of which were drawn by eight horses, the rest by six, and to my utmost astonishment, they were not in all these setts above two or at most three tolerable horses, some very lame, others foundered etc. They returned at sunset in the same order" (p243)
10 <sup>th</sup> September 1779	Pembroke to Herbert: "I have sent Floyd Ld Amherst's orders, or rather George 3rds, to return immediately. I am therefore looking for him, as for Alybey, every moment" (p245)
14 <sup>th</sup> September 1779	Major Floyd to Herbert: ""Alley Bey arrived here perfectly well yesterday, & is loose in the Manage." ..... "Elliot is the same hero you always knew him. He is running about seeing what Horsemen he can get together in case of the enemy landing" (249)
24 <sup>th</sup> September 1779	Pembroke to Herbert: "Aleybey is come. He is indeed a very fine fellow, & shall people the country as Sir Callaghan O'Brallacan says, with his own hands, as soon as possible; but in my state of poverty, £74, for so much his journey costs, is a grievance" (266)
30 <sup>th</sup> September 1779	Pembroke to Herbert: "Le Comte de Melfort has published an excellent book on Cavalry. I wish it, & Gilbert's, with as many other good ones, as ye please, were well translated. On en a bon besoin ici." (footnote in text: "Louis Drummond, Comte de Melfort, author of <i>Traité sur la Cavalerie</i> . Paris, 1776
22 October 1779	Pembroke to Herbert from Ickworth: long letter with current news in the middle of which: "I wrote before about Aley -bey to you" (289)
Oct. 25 /Nov 5 1779, St. Ptg	Sir James Harris to Lord Herbert: letter expressing friendship and regard – family news and then added as a last line: "Yr horse is safe in England". (307)

16 <sup>th</sup> November 1779	Lord Herbert's diary (Florence) "At Eight I went with Lord Cowper to the Manège of S. Marck belonging to the Grand Duke. In the Stables, there were no good Horses. Rugieri, A Scholar of Eisenberg's rode a Horse, that Mezeray sent Lord Cowper of an extraordinary size. Rugieri is now old and Rhumatick, but I could plainly see, that in his time he has been a good Rider. A light Hand, but no Seat." (320)
23 <sup>rd</sup> November 1779	Lord Pembroke to Lord Herbert: letter of instructions and comments in the middle of which is one line: "Alybey's journey cost £81.16.0"
24 <sup>th</sup> November 1779	Lord Herbert's diary (Pisa-Lucca): "In the <i>Chiesa di Cavalieri</i> a number of Standards, Horse Tails etc taken from the Turcks, by the Chevaliers of the Order of St Stephen." (329)
10 <sup>th</sup> December 1779	Lord Herbert's diary (Italy – Alexandria) ""There was also a small Guard of Cavalry with execrable Horses, from all I saw of their Military, I should think the French were the Originals, but I think the Imitations surpass the Copies." (344)
15 <sup>th</sup> December 1779	<p>Floyd to Herbert: "...This camp was purely Military, &amp; we were under the best Cavalry Officer in this, or perhaps in any service, Maj: Gen: Warde, &amp; he instructed the Officers and Men, both old and young, quite in the Prussian manner. I will not tell you it was altogether as correct, but there were two Regiments as good as any I ever saw in my life, Elliott's &amp; Pembroke's, &amp; the good Order, &amp; internal Economy of this latter in their Camp surpassed every thing I have met with. Elliott's Camp was by no means so well as their's." (347)</p> <p>"The 21<sup>st</sup> is new; the most willing people I ever saw, &amp; perfectly well behaved. They ride ill, but do their business in the Field very well for all that, and are surprisingly well on foot. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Dragoon Guards are Peasants. The Royal Dragoons are wonderfully improved, Goldsworthy is a most excellent Officer. They have a fine body of men, good Horses, &amp; are the best horsemen in the Army. Your troop is a very fine one, I often heard your name, &amp; I wish with all my heart you had been at the Head of it. Phillipson's are rather better men than us, &amp; ride better. They had Kinsey's assistance, &amp; Goddard is their Riding Master. Douglas chose to do nothing about our riding till I came. Phillipson's attend too much to trifles. The 21<sup>st</sup> lay under several disadvantages as to Men, &amp; Horses, when they were formed, but we hope to get the better of all this by Spring.....We staid out till the 20<sup>th</sup> November, &amp; had hutted in our Tents, expecting to remain much longer. We had much frost, &amp; Rain too lately, so that our poor horses, who had nothing over them but the Heavens, began to suffer, tho' we had plenty of excellent forage, for both man &amp; horse. Our men were remarkably healthy, but on our coming in to Quarters numbers fell ill, &amp; I have buried two lately; however the sick list decreases, &amp; the horses are getting into good condition. I make them live on horseback, &amp; it answers very well.....Having seen so many others, it will do your heart good to look again at our Cavalry. The Animal they ride must forever give them a most decicive superiority over all others, if moderately well led. I have seen nothing that approaches them except the Danish Horse Guards, &amp; our Blues would walk over them</p>

	<p>even as we do over Stubble in a Field. Lord Pembroke has never told me how he likes Aley Bey since he has rode him. He liked his looks, but thought he cost too much in bringing over: indeed it came very dear, about £70. Indeed it was his own fault for not sending as I beg'd him to do. Other Judges who have seen him, say they never saw his Equal. He was sent to Wilton directly.” (348-9)</p> <p>“I had a letter from Farquharson (who you call Ferguson) directed either to you or to me, very civil &amp; kind indeed, but complaining of never receiving the book I promised him of Ld P’s; you know it was not my fault; I wish you’d write to him at Petersburg” (351)</p> <p>Almost at the end of this long letter:  “Ld P has rode Aley Bey &amp; finds him wonderfully strong” (352)</p>
30 <sup>th</sup> December 1779	Short letter from Lord Pembroke to Rev. Coxe: “I shall be very glad to see Kaësminski: I have an extraordinary fine brood mare, which I shall prevail upon him to take, & send his Father.” (368)
1 <sup>st</sup> January, 1780	<p>Long letter from Lord Pembroke to Lord Herbert discussing the latter’s return to England: “I have your horses ready, but can not find a Groom yet; however, I must before ye come. Pour l’amour de nous, get yourself a good matrimonial bedfellowess, &amp; de plus riches as soon as soon as ye can after your return, ou nous sommes tous, tutti quanti, f---s. Aleybey &amp; ye may start nearly together.”</p> <p>A little later in the letter: “Rugieri was a fine rider, but years ride us all down.” (370)</p> <p>And later – not reported as an equestrian comment but as a representation of the character of Pembroke, out of the blue, amongst much talk of political affairs at home “I wish it would rain four weeks in England together instead of pissing all the year round.” (371)</p> <p>“What of Riverola? Remember me to him. How did his last Horses from England turn out?” (373-4)</p>
3 <sup>rd</sup> January, 1780	Lord Herbert’s diary (Turin): “At eight I called on Mr Bellew at the Academy to go to the Riding House, where I saw Mr Capitol the first Ecuier ride a couple of Beasts to which they were pleased to profuse the noble name of Horse. (Capitol might have been a tollerable Rider some Centuries ago, but now old age has got too much the better to permit him to push on his Horses with vigour.) The Building is a very good one for the purpose, but contains not a single tolerable Horse; and the Riders are very miserable.” (378-9)
6 <sup>th</sup> January, 1780	Sir James Harris to Lord Herbert: “Adieu, your little friend is well. Ld Pem: has as yet sent no horse to Count Alexis, it is to come next year. Aly-bey has deservedly charm’d him; I never saw [him] from the day of your departure till he was shipp’d.” (382)
20 <sup>th</sup> January, 1780	Major Floyd to Lord Herbert: “You will find the Royals perhaps the best Regiment in the Service, & the Corps of Officers perhaps the best set that exists. And if you are under Warde, our late Commander at Lexden, you will not regret even the Prussians. Your Father is the best man to apply to about horses, but should there be any communication you prefer giving me, you know you may command me.”

	<p>(394)</p> <p>“My new Regiment begins to lick into some kind of form, &amp; by the time you arrive I shall not be afraid to produce it even before your Prussian Eye, as a new Regiment. I am at work with them every day, &amp; they live on Horseback, but having even the Instructors to teach, it is impossible to enter into all the Detail I could wish. I have got half a dozen Lances, &amp; make my Rough Riders practice with them. Sir Horace Mann is in this Neighbourhood, &amp; lives comfortably, &amp; has a good many people at his house, &amp; an excellent Stable of Horses. The Arabian Orlow gave him is in this country, but small and light, &amp; not to be compared to yours. I shall be at Sir Horace’s tomorrow; he asks much about you. His daughter is not so pretty as she was, he has two other little ones that are lovely.</p> <p>I am getting a proper advertisement drawn up for <i>Aley Bey</i>; the Duke of Queensberry is the only Turf Man who has yet seen him, &amp; he likes him much.</p> <p>I get some good Courseing in this Country. My health is better than ever. I am on Horseback from Day Break ‘till two or three o’clock every day.” (395)</p>
31 <sup>st</sup> January, 1780	Lord Herbert’s dairy (Turin): “This Morning Ld Mountstuart sent to know if I would ride with him, but as I had other engagements I made my excuses.” (401)
2 <sup>nd</sup> February, 1780	Lord Pembroke to Lord Herbert: “Dear, or Cheap, so it is with Aleybey’s expences. I hope he will repay them by his vigour, which I trust will admit of frequent repetitions. He staid a long time at Petersburg before he sailed. I may be particular, but I do not think J’s a dishonest man. He sells dea, but he buys dear, because, in order to have the best, to gain, to be sure, the best advantage upon it, he gives prices beyond what his brethren will go to; I can not call that cheating.” (401-2)
6 <sup>th</sup> February, 1780	Lord Herbert’s diary (Turinn): “Lord Mountstuart called upon me at Eleven to carry me to Court. From whence about one O’Farrel carried me to see some of their Officers’ Horses, but only one tolerable, and that one not a fine Horse.” (403)
10 <sup>th</sup> February 1780	Lord Herbert’s diary (Turin): The Morning at Eleven I rode on one of Lord Mountstuart’s Horses to Moncalieri, where O’Farrel is quartered. I found him riding in the Palace Yard, he returned with me as far as the Po Gate.” (407)
15 <sup>th</sup> February, 1780	<p>Lord Herbert’s diary (Turin): “I left Turin this morning, booted in my Carriage at eight o’clock and arrived at O’Farrel’s Door at Moncalieri a little before Nine. After Breakfast, I went to the Quarters; the Men well lodged and the Chambers to my utmost astonishment sweet and clean contrary to the common established custom of this Country to live in filth and dirt. The Horses but middling, &amp; small, the man and Horse very ill adapted to one another, like the French Cavalry, the Man being much more able to carry the Horse than he the Man. Their Accoutrements and Dress exceedingly heavy and clumsy, thought Light Dragoons, I could not perceive the least thing in the Man or Horse which notified their being such.”</p> <p>“On our return from the Pallace, we got on Horseback for Stupiniggi; I rode a Horse belonging to</p>

	Mons. de [blank in MS] O'Farrel's Captain." (408)
12 <sup>th</sup> February, 1780	Lord Pembroke to Lord Herbert: "I rather wish that you, & Aleybey may start nearly at the same time, provided you are exceedingly well paid." (409) And later in the letter after some discussion of the 'breed of nations': "The D. of Queensberry advises Aleybey to cover at a Guinea, but to cover only well bred mares. He says it is the best way the first year upon every account. The business is to make him known, & nobody will give the preference at first to an unknown Stallion unless he works cheap." Talking of such things no doubts reminds Pembroke of other news and the next sentence is: "Bird had a child by L.P." (410)
21 <sup>st</sup> February, 1780	Lord Herbert's diary (Turin): "My Drawing Lesson being over at Eleven, I putt off my Fortification till tomorrow and rode one of Lord Mountstuart's Horses with the Princess Carigan on the Road to Stupiniggi and returned round the Glacie to the Porta Suzine." (415)
26 <sup>th</sup> February, 1780	Lord Herbert's diary (Turing): At twelve I rode by myself out of the Porta Suzine and as I was on Lord Mountstuart's large Horse, who is a very good leaper, I rode him over hedge & ditch across the Country to the very great surprise of all the Piemontese Spectators." (417)
27 <sup>th</sup> February, 1780	Lord Herbert's diary (Turin): "(Note ... Veneria Reale about four English Miles & a half from Turin is a large Royal Pallace with a regular Village built before it, and which has a very good effect. The Architectural part of the Pallace is detestable. ... The Stables at the Pallace contain about four hundred Horses.) We saw the Pallace containing a very fine Gallery. The Stables superb and some fine Horses in them. The Stud is about a Mile from the Pallace, but seemed to be in a poor situation. I this Day rode Lord M's running Horse, and upon him I returned to the Bridge before the Town from the Venerie in about ¼ of an hour, without pushing him out, certain that I could have easily have done it in 10 Minutes. The two other Gentlemen I left much more behind, than Mylord, though they made as much haste as possible." (417-8)
28 <sup>th</sup> February, 1780	Lord Herbert's diary (Turin): "I did not walk this Morning as I was rather tired with an over-abundant quantity of Tennis, added to which my Arms ached occasioned by the Horse pulling so much yesterday." (418)
6 <sup>th</sup> March, 1780	Lord Herbert's diary (Turin): "At Eleven I rode, dined at home, dressed and at Six carried Mons. de Cramayel, who arrived on Saturday, to Ciabrano's where we heard a very good young Violin, named Paris, and Sichi the Hautboy." (426)
8 <sup>th</sup> March, 1780	At Eleven I rode here, there and everywhere, getting into every odd corner in hopes of procuring shade but in vain." (426)
9 <sup>th</sup> March, 1780	"At Eleven called on Lord Mountstuart, attended him to the Academy, and on Horseback to Moncalieri." (427)
10 <sup>th</sup> March, 1780	"I rode this morning at 10 (for I have disbanded all my Masters except Ciabrano) by myself on the

	large Horse which Sheldon bought for Ld Mountstuart.” (427)
12 <sup>th</sup> March, 1780	“From 10 to near 12 I rode the full Blood a foot’s Pace round the Town, ...” (427)
22 <sup>nd</sup> March, 1780	Major Floyd to Lord Herbert: “I have already told you we lay under some disadvantages in our composition. We have, however got rid of some of bad men & Horses, & replaced them with <i>very good</i> . We are now compleat, & getting on in our business as well as we can. The winter has been severe for England, however our ground was so favourable (for we had no house) that I was constantly able to see the men on horseback five times a week, with scarce any interruption; & I am well pleased with the appearance of them for the time.” (433)
23 <sup>rd</sup> March, 1780	Lord Herbert’s diary (France): “...we then carried him home, and I finished my morning with the Ecole Veterinaire in the Suburb over the Rhone. It is very trifling and a Mons. Flaudrin <sup>1</sup> is now at the head of it., there were about ten Sick Horses.” [ <sup>1</sup> Pierre Flaudrin (1752-1796), French Veterinary writer. He succeeded Bourgelat.]
25-27 <sup>th</sup> April, 1780	Lord Herbert’s diary (France): “Since the 24 <sup>th</sup> , I have not had time to write my Notes, so that I am now obliged to clump together the 25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> , and 27 <sup>th</sup> . On the 25 <sup>th</sup> , I came from Poitiers to the Ormes, where I stopped to see the Marquis de Voyer d’Argenson’s <sup>1</sup> Country House, but more particularly for his Studd, which far surpasses any thing, I expected to see of that kind in France. The Studd is wholly furnished by English Mares & Horses. There are about 40 Mares with their Pedigrees of the first Breeds in England, and three Stallions, whose names are Mask, Mexico, & TopGallant. In the same Stable with these three was an Arabian lately arrived, but I flatter myself far inferior to Alley Bey. Mexico was bought of Lord Grosvenor, <sup>2</sup> I do not recollect of whom the other two were bought. The Man at the Head of the Stud is a Frenchman seemingly very intelligent, & follows perhaps rather too much our method of proceeding in every thing. The Hunting Stable was well furnished with about thirty Horses and I believe not one bad one under the Roof. There is one thing however in which he differs from us & very justly, which is in making it a rule never to cut a Horse. I saw two young Colts, that are to run in October next, three Years old, both born and bred in that Stud, and their only fault is being rather too small, but he is in hopes of getting them stouter in time. I went to see the House, situated on the Banks of the Loire, but merits more the name of a Country Box than House.” (465) “On the morning of the 26 <sup>th</sup> , I was carried in an English Carriage, drawn by two English Horses to see the Mares, all fine, some superfine, but indeed for the price paid, superfine ought to be purchased, some having been bought at 500£ Sterling. There are Children of all our first Blood Horses. Fully content with my halt at the Ormes I departed for S. Amboise, where I arrived at Seven.” (466) “To-Day, which is the 27 <sup>th</sup> , I went early in the Morning to see Chanteloup about two English Miles from Amboise, I saw very little of the House, as they were all in Bed, what I did see of it was not much worth seeing. ...His Stables are as ill furnished as possible.” (466)

	<sup>1</sup> Antoine-René de Voyer, Marquis d'Argenson (1722-1787). <sup>2</sup> Richard, 1 <sup>st</sup> Baron Grosvenor (1731-1802), created 1 <sup>st</sup> Earl Grosvenor in 1784. He is said to have been the greatest breeder then existing of racing stock.]
8 <sup>th</sup> May, 1780	“De Guines who had offered me his Horses for the review sent me word they would be ready for me at the Iron Gate at the end of the Elysian Fields at half an hour after two, however after some consideration I sent to his Stable to say, I should make no use of his Horses.” (473)
9 <sup>th</sup> May, 1780	<p>“Last Night, Conflans<sup>1</sup> very civilly offered me his Horses, etc, etc, and desired I would be at the Chateau de [Vincennes<sup>2</sup>] at 12 to Day to hunt with the Duke of Chartres,<sup>3</sup> accordingly I was there at twelve, &amp; asked for Singleton, who is at the head of the Duke of Chartres Stables, who like a true Bull examined me from head to foot &amp; received me very coolly. In a quarter of an hour after my arrival Duke of Chartres &amp; Conflans came, the latter procured me a Sight of the Stables &amp; running Horses, for as it was passed Stable Hour, Singleton would not even open one single Stable Door for a Countryman. We were in the Wood, before any Game was found, at last a large Wild Boar gave us near an Hour's run and at last he was taken alive. I went with Conflans thro' the Wood and left the rest of the Company. I separated from him for a moment, in which time, he found a Man who had shott himself with a Pistol and had furnished himself with a Razor, in case the first should have failed. On our return to the Chateau the Marechaussée was sent to examine him.” (473-4)</p> <p><sup>1</sup> Louis Gabriel de Conflans d'Armentieres(born 1725). He went to London on 1767.  <sup>2</sup> Lord Herbert started to write Vincennes and erased it, leaving a blank.  <sup>3</sup> Louis Philippe Joseph (1747-1793), Duc de Chartres. Later he became the Duc d'Orleans and is better known under his title of 'Philippe Egalité'.]</p>
12 <sup>th</sup> May 1780	“Henry walked with me through the Pallais Royal to the Thuilleries & to the Ecole d'Equitation, where I saw a long Stable full of baddish Horses. At one I returned, dressed & dined on a very maigre Dinner at Madame de Castellane's.” (477)
19 <sup>th</sup> May, 1780	<p>“On Thursday, I went with Edward Dillon,<sup>1</sup> Conflans, &amp; Coigny<sup>2</sup> to hunt. Prince Nassau lent me a Horse.” (479)</p> <p>[<sup>1</sup>Edouard Dillon (1751-1839), French general and diplomatist.  <sup>2</sup>Possibly: (1) François Marie Casimir de Franquetot (1756-1816), Marquis de Coigny; (2) Marie François Henri de Franquetot (1737-1821), Duc de Coigny, father of the Marquis.]</p>
21 <sup>st</sup> May, 1780	Dr Eyre to Lord Herbert: “Ld Pembroke: is, I find, with the Royals at Norwich.” (481)
26 <sup>th</sup> May, 1780	Lord Herbert's diaries (Paris): “This morning I paid off my Fencing Man, the 12 lessons being completed. At Eleven I called on Prince Nassau, who desired me, when arrived in England, to see for a running Mare for him, and that he would go to 400 Louis.” (483)
18 <sup>th</sup> June, 1780	Major Floyd to Lord Herbert: “When do you see the Royals? They are the best Reg: we have. I never

	saw <i>any Camp</i> so well conducted as theirs. What think ye of that? They are the best Horsemen in England.” (488)
20 <sup>th</sup> June 1780	Major Floyd to Lord Herbert: “How are you mounted? I only mean on Horseback, I declare. I had a Horse that was the admiration of our whole Camp, last year; the Rascal went blind, & I sold him for 12 Guineas. Razamowski sent me a Commission to buye him a couple of Horses. I had a letter from him lately desiring to be off, for that Ld Maynard was coming to England & had taken it upon himself.” (491)

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