

since you have balked me in this manner. What an excuse do you make with your Passion Week and fiddle-faddle,⁷ as if you could ever be at a loss what to say! Why, I, that am in the country, could give you a full and true account of half a dozen intrigues; nay, I have an amour carried on almost under my window between a boar and a sow, people of very good fashion, that come to an assignation, and squeak like ten masquerades; I have a great mind to make you hear the whole progress of the affair, together with the humours of Miss Pignies, the lady's confidante, but you will think perhaps I invent it, and so I shall let it alone. But I wonder you are not ashamed of yourself: in town, and not able to furnish out an epistle as long as a cow's tail! (excuse the rusticity of my simile). In short, I have tried and condemned you in my mind; all that you can allege to save yourself won't do, for I find by your excuses you are brought to your *dernière chemise*,⁸ and as you stand guilty, I adjudge you to be drawn to the place of execution, your chamber, where, taking pen in hand, you shall write a letter as long as this to him who is nothing when not

Your sincere friend and most devoted humble servant,

T. GRAY

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TO GRAY, ca Sunday 20 October 1734

Missing. Probably written in St James's Square between 9 Oct., the date on which Gray began residence at Peterhouse, and 31 Oct., the date of Gray's answer.

From GRAY, Thursday 31 October 1734

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Misdated 1735 by Mason. The day and month are supplied by the postmark; the year is clearly the year Gray entered Cambridge.

Address: To the Honourable Horace Walpole Esq. at the house of the Right Honourable Sir Robert Walpole in St James's Square, London.

Postmark: CAMBRIDGE 1 NO.

7. Lady Plyant (ibid. II. v): 'Fiddle faddle, don't tell me of this and that.'

8. The supposed French translation of

Cibber's *Love's Last Shift* was *La Dernière chemise de l'amour*.

9. Piece cut out, carrying with it part of the address on the other side.