

Credit to both reports is due:  
 They long at Richmond dwelt, 'tis true:  
 But, from the downy lap of rest  
 When business called the royal breast,  
 Then straight to Chelsea-side in haste  
 Leisure retired, and with her Taste.

### From GRAY, Wednesday 29 December 1736

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Dated by the postmark and the reference to Lord Townshend. Unless Gray miswrote 'Wednesday' for 'Tuesday,' this is a rare example in the correspondence of a letter stamped in London the same day it was posted in Cambridge (see also *post* 20 March 1738, and preliminary note to *ante* 16 April 1734).

*Address:* To the Honourable Horace Walpole Esq. at the Treasury, Westminster. *Postmark:* CAMBRIDGE 29 DE.

Wednesday [Dec. 29, 1736], Cambridge.

My dear Horace,

I THINK this is the first time I have had any occasion to find fault with Sir Robert's mal-administration,<sup>1</sup> and if he should keep you in town another week, I don't know whether I shan't change my side, and write a *Craftsman*;<sup>2</sup> I am extreme sorry I could not dine with you last Sunday, but I really was engaged at Peterhouse, and did not know of the honour you intended me till night; if it had not been for a great cold I had got, I certainly should have come post to supper. I engage myself to drink tea with you at King's the day after tomorrow, for then we expect you; I mean me, for Ashton is to try not to expect you then. I believe I shall stay here till February, so pray come hither, if that can be any part of a reason for it. The Moderator<sup>3</sup> has asked me to make the Tripos verses<sup>4</sup> this year; they say the<sup>5</sup> University has sent a letter by the post to

1. MS, 'male-administration.' Such spellings were common in the eighteenth century. See OED.

2. The organ of the Opposition, founded (Dec. 1726) and edited by Nicholas Amhurst (1697–1742) under the pseudonym of 'Caleb D'Anvers, of Gray's Inn, Esq.' Its principal contributors were Bolingbroke, Pulteney, and Thomas Cooke (*Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*, 1941, ii. 698, 713).

3. Probably the Senior Moderator, James

Brown (ca 1709–84), D.D., Master of Pembroke 1770–84; friend and correspondent of Gray.

4. Also called *carmina comitalia*; commissioned by the two moderators of the year for distribution among the undergraduates on Thursday after Midlent Sunday (Thursday 24 March 1737), the day of the second tripos (Christopher Wordsworth, *Scholæ Academicæ*, Cambridge, 1877, p. 19; Adam Wall, *Account of the different Ceremonies observed in the Senate*