

to HW on 15 Jan. 1738, this letter is assigned to 1737. The Peterhouse records show no charges in 1736 before Jan. 23.

Address: To the Honourable Horace Walpole Esq. at the Treasury, Westminster. *Postmark:* CAMBRIDGE 17 IA.

[Cambridge, January 16, 1737.]

< >

I HAVE a taste for the works of Cramputius,¹ and his scraps; if you can fill twelve baskets with such fragments, I have a stomach for 'em all.² One should have had a passion for Simplicia oneself, if one had lived in those days; she is so open and unreserved in her behaviour: the pleasure of having a mistress, that, when one made her a compliment and called her spider, should only cry ehe! I don't doubt but Portia behaved just so when Brutus made love to her (this was reckoned a scene of great gallantry I suppose at that time), and Q. Crassus Tubero³ as pretty a fellow with the women as the Génie Jonquil.⁴ I don't know whether you have forgot Cambridge or not; it's plain, you choose only to keep it in mind; it seems to be at this time of year that the humour usually takes you to tell us stories about your coming, but, however, I would rather be deceived than hear nothing at all of it; so say something of it, pray; everybody in Cambridge knows better than I, who remain

Yours to command,

PATIENT GRISSEL

For God's sake write often, if it be but two syllables.

To WEST, February 1737

Missing. Mentioned *post* 27 Feb. 1737.

1. This passage is unexplained, in the absence of HW's letter to which this is a reply.

2. Cf. *Othello* V. ii. 75.

3. This name was perhaps suggested by Orasius Tubero, the pseudonym of François de la Mothe le Vayer (1588–1672), an imitator of the classics. HW may have written 'Q. Orasius Tubero,' which Gray misread as Crassus.

4. Le Génie Jonquille, a voluptuous character in *L'Écumoire*, 1734, by Claude-Prospér Jolyot de Crébillon (1707–77). Those who opposed his desires and passions became objects of his wrath and were metamorphosed into moles, cormorants, monsters, etc. For Gray's copy (1735, 2 vols) see Gray's MS Catalogue of his library, f. 12 (W. P. Jones, *Thomas Gray Scholar*, Cambridge, Mass., 1937, p. 163).