

## TO GRAY, APRIL–JUNE 1746

Missing. Mentioned *post* 7 July 1746.

## FROM GRAY, Monday 7 July ?1746

Printed from MS in the Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, presented to Haverford College in 1902. The date of the year is conjectural. Gray left Cambridge ca Monday 13 July ('Chronological Table,' *Gray's Corr.*).

Endorsed by Pinkerton:<sup>1</sup> 'Original letter from Mr Gray, the poet, to Mr Walpole. Given me by Mr W.'

Cambridge, July 7 [?1746].

My dear Sir,

I COULD make you abundance of excuses, as indeed I have reason, but they would be bad and false ones, such as my respect for you will not permit me to use. Attribute then this long interval of silence to whatever motive you please besides; only don't imagine it neglect, or want of sensibility to the many expressions of kindness you bestowed upon me in your last letter. My sentiments are nothing altered since that time, however tardy I may have been in telling you so. I well remember how little you love letters, when all the materials are drawn out of oneself; yet such mine must have been from a place where nothing ever happens but trifles that it would be mere impertinence to think of entertaining you with. However I am apt to suspect you have been a little angry, for Dr Middleton,<sup>2</sup> though often with you in town, did not bring me the least compliment to show you remembered me. Do you mean to continue so, or shall you see me the less willingly next week, when I mean to call at your door some morning? I hope you are still in town.<sup>3</sup> Believe me, dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

T. GRAY

1. John Pinkerton (1758–1826), Scottish antiquary and historian; HW's correspondent.

2. Conyers Middleton (1683–1750), D.D., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, 1706; Librarian of the Cambridge University Library 1721; HW's correspondent.

3. HW wrote to Henry Fox 19 July 1746 from Mistle Hall, Essex, the seat of Richard Rigby, secretary to the Duke of Bedford (MONTAGU i. 14). When he left London is not known.