

no geographer; there I will be at the appointed day, and from thence you must fetch me.

Nicolini⁵ with a whole coach full of the Chattichees⁶ has been at Cambridge in an equipage like that of Destiny and his comrades in the *Roman comique*.⁷ They said they had been in the meridional parts of Great Britain, and were now visiting the oriental. Your friend Dr Middleton has married really a pretty kind of woman⁸ both in figure and manner, which is strange methinks. Adieu, I am

Yours ever,

T. GRAY

From GRAY, Wednesday 9 September 1747

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Memoranda by HW:¹ 'Lord Sandw.² acting plays.

Battering ram.'

Address: To the Honourable Horace Walpole Esq. at his house in Arlington Street, Westminster. *Postmark:* WINDSOR 11 SE.

5. Antonio Niccolini (1701-69), Marchese di Ponsacco, Florentine ecclesiastic and man of letters. See Vittorio Spreti, *Enciclopedia storico-nobiliare Italiana*, Milan, 1928-36, iv. 816-17, and *The Record of the Royal Society of London*, 3d edn, 1912, p. 343; see also HW's correspondence with Mann, where Niccolini is frequently mentioned.

6. 'Panciatici, Nicolini, and Pandolfini, Florentines then in England' (HW). Giovanni Gualberto Panciatici (1721-50), Imperial Chamberlain (1746) to Maria Theresa and Francis I (Litta, 'Panciatici,' table xv); Roberto Pandolfini (living 1750), Florentine senator, cr. (1748) Cavaliere, with title of Conte (Spreti, op. cit. v. 99; Giuseppe Conti, *Firenze dopo i Medici*, Florence, 1921, p. 329). Niccolini and Pandolfini arrived in Nov. 1746 and Panciatici in Feb. 1747 (HW to Mann 4 Nov. 1746, 23 Feb. 1747, O.S.).

7. *Le Roman comique* (1651) by Paul Scarron (1610-60). Gray refers to the 'charrette . . . pleine de coffres, de malles et de gros paquets de toiles peintes qui faisaient comme une pyramide' in which 'une troupe de comédiens arrive dans la ville du

Mans' (I. i). The 'nom de théâtre' of the leader is 'Le Destin' (see ed. Émile Magne, Paris, n.d., pp. 3, 5).

8. 'His 3d wife' (HW). Anne Powell (d. 1760), dau. of John Powell, of Boughrood, Radnor, m. (1) — Wilkins, merchant at Bristol; m. (2) (5 June 1747) Conyers Middleton (Nichols, *Lit. Anec.*, v. 412; GM 1747, xvii. 296; 1760, xxx. 347). The following character is taken from HW, Waldegrave MSS 1.59: 'His second wife dying without any surviving issue, he married Mrs Wilkins, a widow. . . . The new Mrs Middleton was an accomplished woman and well skilled in music, of which Dr Middleton was very fond, and played himself on the bass viol.'

1. These words, which are scribbled on the letter in pencil, appear to be notes for the year 1751 in *Mem. Geo. II*: 'Lord Sandwich had been hoisted to the head of the Admiralty by the weight of the Duke of Bedford, into whose affection he had worked himself by intrigues, cricket-matches, and acting plays' (edn 1847, i. 2).

2. John Montagu (1718-92), 4th E. of Sandwich.