

had, I suppose you do not think worth giving him; otherwise, to me it seems not worse than the former. He might have Selima¹² too, unless she be of too little importance for his patriot-collection, or perhaps the connections you had with her may interfere. *Che so io?* Adieu!

I am yours ever,

T. G.

TO GRAY, January 1748

Missing. Probably written in Arlington Street shortly after the publication of Dodsley's *Collection of Poems* on 14 Jan. 1748. Answered *post ca* Jan. 1748.

FROM GRAY, ca January 1748

The MS of the original is incomplete; the missing first part is reprinted from *Works* v. 393-5, and the remainder (see n. 44, below) printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Dated approximately, with reference to the publication of Dodsley's *Collection*.

[Cambridge, ca Jan. 1748.]

I AM obliged to you for Mr Dodsley's book,¹ and, having pretty well looked it over, will (as you desire) tell you my opinion of it. He might, methinks, have spared the Graces² in his frontispiece, if he chose

12. 'The Ode on Mr Walpole's cat drowned in the tub of gold-fish' (Berry). See *ante* 1 March 1747.

1. *A Collection of Poems. By Several Hands. In Three Volumes*, published by Robert Dodsley (1703-64) 14 Jan. (*Daily Adv.* 14 Jan. 1748). The poems in the *Collection* are for the greater part reprints, though several poems were here published for the first time, including HW's, Gray's (except the *Eton Ode*), and West's. For studies of the *Collection* see W. P. Courtney, *Dodsley's Collection of Poetry, Its Contents and Contributors*, 1910, also published serially in N&Q 1906-9; and R. W. Chapman, 'Dodsley's Collection of Poems by Several Hands,' *Oxford Bibliographical Society Proceedings*, 1933, iii. 268-316. Courtney observes: 'Most of the pieces composing the first three volumes (January 1748) were

submitted to the judgment of George, the first Lord Lyttelton, before they were passed for printing. Some of them were suggested by Horace Walpole. Among these are the six Town Eclogues of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, the poems of Gray, the monody of their friend Richard West, and, I would add, Seward's "Female Right to Literature." HW's set, 6 vols, 1748-58 (vols i-iii are the 2d edn), with his MS notes supplying names and other information, was sold SH vi. 20 to John Mitford; after his death it was acquired by the British Museum.

2. A vignette of the Three Graces, engraved by Charles Mosley (d. 1770), fills half the title-page. In the second (1748) and subsequent editions the vignette was changed to one of Apollo and the Nine Muses.