

TO GRAY, April 1751

Missing. Probably written in Arlington Street. Answered *post* 16 April 1751.

FROM GRAY, Tuesday 16 April 1751

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

The date of the year, added by Mason, is confirmed by the references to the deaths of Whithed and Lord Orford.

Address: To the Honorable Horace Walpole Esq. in Arlington Street, London.

Postmark: CAMBRIDGE 17 AP.

Cambridge, April 16 [1751].

I AM ashamed, but not astonished at poor Mr Whithed's insensibility.¹ Yet I had settled it with myself before that he would give Mr Chute £500 a year, which I thought at least by half too little. But this was just the thing in which Mr Chute neither would, nor could, suggest to him what he ought to do, and so he has done accordingly. I hope it was only negative ingratitude, but (I own to you) I do suspect there was a little reflection in it, and that his conversations with Mr L.,² and perhaps with another person² who knows the value of money better than that of friendship, might have had their effect upon his mind. I do not wonder that Mr Chute is satisfied with everything; I even believe that when time shall convince him that Whithed has fallen extremely short in his acknowledgments to him, it will rather add to his concern than diminish it. My best wishes always accompany him; and I can only *wish* that they were of more consequence. What a change this loss will make in his future life! I can only guess at the extent of it. The brothers are nasty people,³ that don't deserve mentioning. I see *Alexander* sets himself up in his brother's room, which (I hope in God) will considerably reduce his share in the inheritance.⁴

1. Whithed died 29 March 1751 at the Vyne, Chute's country-seat (30 March in the *London Magazine* 1751, xx. 189, but see HW to Mann 1 April 1751, O.S.). By his will, dated 30 Aug. 1748, proved 15 April 1751 (P.C.C. Busby 128), Whithed divided his landed estates and the residue of his personal property between his brothers Alexander and Robert Thistlethwayte. He left £1000 to 'my cousin John Chute, Esq.'

2. Not identified.

3. Alexander Thistlethwayte (ca 1718–

71), of Winterslow, Wilts (subsequently of Southwick Park, Hants), M.P. Southampton 1751–61 (as successor to Whithed); and Robert Thistlethwayte (ca 1721–67), D.D., rector of Tytherley, Hants (Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*). 'His [Whithed's] youngest brother, the clergyman, . . . is the greatest brute in the world, except the elder brother, the layman' (HW to Mann 1 April 1751, O.S.).

4. Alexander inherited the large Norton estate which had come to Whithed from his great-grandfather, Richard Norton,