

but seventeen lines of having an end, I don't say of being finished. As it is so unfortunate to come too late for Mr Bentley, it may appear in the fourth volume of the *Miscellanies*,<sup>7</sup> provided you don't think it execrable and suppress it. Pray, when the fine book is to be printed, let me revise the press, for you know you can't,<sup>8</sup> and there are a few trifles I could wish altered.

I know not what you mean by hours of love,<sup>9</sup> and cherries, and pine-apples. I neither see nor hear anything here, and am of opinion that is the best way. My compliments to Mr Bentley, if he be with you. I am

Your ever,  
T. GRAY

I desire you would not show that epigram<sup>10</sup> I repeated to you as mine. I have heard of it twice already as coming from you.

### From GRAY, Sunday 17 December 1752

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Dated by Mason: 1752.

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

Postmark: SAFFRON WALDEN 18 DE.

Camb[rid]ge, Dec. 17 [1752], Sunday.

**I** SENT to Dodsley some time since, who wrote to me by your order, what little alterations I had to make, and should be glad to know whether you thought them for the better or the worse. He tells me now he could finish in a fortnight if I were in town, but this would be very inconvenient to me at present, so I must have the sheets sent me to correct hither, and I suppose it may come out in less than a month<sup>1</sup> . . . .<sup>2</sup>

7. See *ante* 8 Oct. 1751, n. 7.

8. A frequent reproach of Gray's, according to HW. See HW to Mason 15 May 1773.

9. HW probably was alluding to Gray's meetings with Lady Cobham's niece, Henrietta Jane Speed (1728–83), m. (1761) Francesco Maria Giuseppe Giustino di Viry, Barone de la Perrière, Conte di Viry, 1766 (Vittorio Spreti, *Enciclopedia storico-nobiliare italiana*, Milan, 1928–36, vi. 924). She had been living at Stoke with Lady Cobham since 1747, and in Sept. 1750, in company with Lady Schaub, she called on Gray at Mrs Rogers's house. Gray was ab-

sent, but soon returned the visit, and composed for the occasion 'A Long Story,' of which Miss Speed and Lady Schaub are the 'heroines.' He became intimate with Miss Speed and on Lady Cobham's death (1760) there were rumours of their impending marriage (*Gray's Corr.* i. 330–3, ii. 704).

10. Not identified.

1. *Designs* was published 29 March 1753 (*Daily Adv.* 27–29 March 1753).

2. A piece containing about five lines of the text has been cut from the MS.