

From GRAY, Friday 8 August 1755

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

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

Postmark: 9 AV.

Aug. 8, Stoke, 1755.

I INTEND to be at Strawberry on Monday before dinner.¹ But as saints have the diabetes,² you will not wonder if a miserable sinner cannot answer a day beforehand for his own constitution. Seriously it has not been fair weather within me,³ ever since I came into this country. At Mr Chute's I was not quite right, and since my return, particularly this morning, I am sensible of a feverish disposition, and little wandering pains⁴ that may fix into the gout, and confine me again. If so, you will excuse the caprices of my distemper, and conclude that it came upon me too suddenly for me to give you notice in time. I am

Yours ever,

T. G.

From GRAY, Sunday 10 August 1755

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

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

Postmark: 11 AV.

Aug. 10, 1755, Stoke.

AS they have ordered me to bleed presently,¹ I write to you, while I can make use of my arm, to desire you would excuse me. I have had advice,² as they call it, and am still as uncertain as ever,

i. 187). One of his drawings, 'View of the Vine in Hampshire, the seat of John Chute, Esq.,' later hung in HW's bedchamber at SH (Des. of SH, *Works* ii. 452). See also MONTAGU i. 259 and *ante* i. 34.

1. HW himself was ill of a fever and a rash, and was unable to go to Twickenham. Early Monday morning (11 Aug.) he sent a messenger to Gray at Stoke asking him to defer his visit (*Gray's Corr.* i. 430-1). Gray eventually visited HW at SH 11-16 Sept. (GM 1845, n.s., xxiv. 232).

2. See HW to Bentley 4 Aug. 1755: 'St Swithin's diabetes.'

3. On 7 Aug. Gray complains of the consequences of excessive use of butter and citrus fruits (GM loc. cit.).

4. 'Friday [8 Aug.]. Redit febricula, non belle habet stomachus, ponderis semper [?] sensus] in femoribus et lenis interdum dolor in pedum amborum articulis' (GM loc. cit.).

1. 'Sunday [10 Aug.] Sanguinis 10 unc. traxi. Nox inquieta et turbida' (GM 1845, n.s., xxiv. 232).

2. From Dr Cherry Hayes. See Gray to Wharton 21 Aug. 1755 (*Gray's Corr.* i. 433; see also i. 431).