

## From GRAY, Wednesday 8 September 1756

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

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

Postmark: BASINGSTOKE 8 SE.

Sept. 8, 1756, the Vine.

POOR Mr Chute has now had the gout for these five days, with such a degree of pain and uneasiness as he never felt before. Whether to attribute it to Dr La Cour's<sup>1</sup> forcing medicines, or to a little cold he got as soon as he came hither, I know not, but for above forty hours it seemed past all human suffering, and he lay screaming like a man upon the rack. The torture was so great that (against my judgment and even his own) he was forced to have recourse to the infusion of poppy-heads, which Cocchi used to give him,<sup>2</sup> and in half an hour's time was easy, fell into a gentle perspiration, and slept many hours. This was the night before last, and all yesterday he continued cheerful and in spirits. At night (as he expected) the pain returned, not so violent but in more places, for now it is in one foot, both knees, and one hand; and I hourly dread it will increase again to its former rage. If anything sudden happen, who can I send to? Here is no assistance nearer than a Dr Langrish<sup>3</sup> at Winchester, of whom he has no great opinion. As to Lacour he is enraged against him, and looks upon him as the cause of all he suffers. I cannot think there is any danger, for though with all this he is at times in a high fever, yet it seems to depend upon the gout entirely, increasing and abating with the pain. But if anything unexpected happen, here are nobody but myself and Muntz in the house, would you advise to send to Mrs Pawlet,<sup>4</sup> or to whom? You will oblige me, if you will answer

1. Philip de la Cour (ca 1710–80), M.D. (Leyden, 1733), licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, 1751 (William Munk, *Roll of the Royal College of Physicians of London*, 1878, ii. 178). He is the 'Jew-Physician' mentioned in Gray to Wharton ca 20 June 1760 (*Gray's Corr.* ii. 678), who lived in Bury Street (*Court and City Register*, 1760, p. 226).

2. Chute had had attacks of the gout in Florence in 1742, 1743, 1744, and 1746. Cocchi presumably attended him then. See Mann correspondence.

3. Browne Langrish (d. 1759), M.D., extra licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, 1734; F.R.S., 1734; author of *A New Essay on Muscular Motion*, 1733, and *Modern Theory and Practice of Physic*, 1735.

4. Not identified. She was probably related to Harry Powlett, 4th D. of Bolton, whose brother Charles (d. 1754), the 3d Duke, was a friend and neighbour of Chute's brother, Anthony (Chaloner W. Chute, *A History of the Vyne*, Winchester, 1888, p. 83). Bolton's seat, Hackwood Park, Hants, is 4½ miles south of the Vyne.