

TO GRAY JULY 1764

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Missing. Probably written at Strawberry Hill. Implied in *post* 10 July 1764 and in Gray to Wharton 10 July 1764 (*Gray's Corr.* ii. 840).

From GRAY, Tuesday 10 July 1764

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

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

Postmark: SAFFRON WALDEN [?] IY. FREE.¹

[Cambridge,] July 10, 1764.

I SEND you the list² you desired, which now perhaps signifies little, but I could not procure it sooner. Harding³ is Nicholas Harding's⁴ son. His uncle Pratt⁵ has taken him away, and written a proper letter to Dr Smith⁶ on the occasion.

1. For HW's franking privileges as M.P., see MONTAGU i. 51. Though Gray's letters to HW must have been delivered free ever since 1741, when HW first entered Parliament, this is the first to be stamped 'Free'—a requirement probably necessitated by the 'Act for preventing frauds and abuses in relation to the sending and receiving of letters and packets free from the duty of postage' (4 Geo. III, c. 24), which became effective 1 May 1764.

2. Probably a list of voters in the election of the High Steward (*ante* 718 March 1764, n. 12).

3. George (1743–1816), Nicholas Hardinge's 3d son, M.P. Old Sarum 1784–1802; senior justice of Brecon, Glamorgan, and Radnor 1787–1816; HW's and Burke's correspondent. Hardinge was admitted as a pensioner at Trinity 14 Jan. 1761; M.A. 1769.

4. Nicholas Hardinge (1699–1758), of Canbury, Surrey, M.P. Eye 1748–58; chief clerk of the House of Commons 1731–48; secretary of the Treasury 1752–8 (Venn, *Alumni Cantab.*; DNB).

5. Sir Charles Pratt (1714–94), Kt, 1761, cr. (1765) Bn and (1786) E. Camden; chief justice of the Common Pleas, 1761, Lord Chancellor, 1766. His sister, Jane, married Nicholas Hardinge in 1738 (DNB *sub* Hardinge).

6. Robert Smith (ca 1690–1768), LL.D., D.D.; Master of Trinity College 1742–68; Plumian Professor of Astronomy 1716–60 (Venn, *Alumni Cantab.*); Sandwich's most ardent supporter. On 6 April, Sandwich having been invited to dine at Trinity as Smith's guest, the undergraduates stayed away from dinner and congregated in the court outside, cheering Sandwich's rival, Hardwicke. Smith drew up a document to be signed by the undergraduates, confessing that they had 'knowingly and wilfully' conspired 'to be absent from the hall . . . in open contempt and defiance of all decency, discipline, and government' (quoted by D. A. Winstanley, *The University of Cambridge in the Eighteenth Century*, Cambridge, 1922, p. 116). Only five undergraduates signed. Pratt, in a letter to Stephen Wisson, Fellow of Trinity, written before 23 June, said that he could not wish his nephew 'to sign so base a submission as is proposed, nor suffer him to stay in the college exposed to the future vengeance of the Master and seniors, to be wreaked upon him at a time when they can most essentially hurt him' (Lynford Caryl, Master of Jesus, to Newcastle 23 June 1764, quoted in *ibid.* 118–19). An act of oblivion was passed by the seniority on 23 June.