

Mr Anstey's satire¹³ seems to aim chiefly at this University, the patrons that protect it, the clients that make their court to them, their dedications, and clumsy flattery, their method of education, and style of politics, etc.; he has not indeed refused anything else ridiculous that came across him. I like it but little; the only things that made me laugh were:

Sent venison, which was kindly taken
And woodcocks, which they boil'd with bacon¹⁴

and the High Sheriff's frizzled lady, when she meets her husband, after he is knighted, at a ball.¹⁵

I have been confined to my room, ever since I came hither,¹⁶ but not very ill. Adieu, I am

Ever yours,
T. G.

From GRAY, Sunday 14 February 1768

Reprinted from *Works* v. 368–70.

Feb. 14, 1768, Pembroke College.

I RECEIVED the book¹ you were so good to send me, and have read it again (indeed I could hardly be said to have read it before) with attention and with pleasure. Your second edition² is so rapid in its progress that it will now hardly answer any purpose to tell you either my own objections, or those of other people. Certain it is, that you are universally read here; but what we think is not so easy to come at. We

rooster, the other a copy of part of a legal document with a regnal date referring to the 15th year of either Edward II or Edward III. (In writing this note the editors received assistance from Messrs Hartley Simpson and Edmund Silk.)

13. *The Patriot, a Pindaric Address to Lord Buckhorse*, Cambridge, 1767, by Christopher Anstey (1724–1805), Fellow of King's College 1745–54; it was published anonymously 12 Dec. (*Daily Adv.* 12 Dec. 1767).

14. *The Patriot*, edn 1767, p. 10.

15. ' . . . in velvet coat array'd, he Meets at the ball his frizzled lady, Who looks half pleas'd, and half affrighted, E'er since her husband has been knighted.' (Ibid. 43.)

16. Under 14 Dec. in Gray's *Naturalist's Journal*: 'Came to Cambridge.' On 28 Dec.

Gray wrote to Wharton: 'The gout came regularly while I was in town, first in one, then in the other foot, but so tame you might have stroked it. Since I got hither, another of my troublesome companions for life has confined me to my room, but abstinence has (I believe) got the better of that too, and tomorrow I go abroad again' (*Gray's Corr.* iii. 986).

1. *Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of King Richard the Third*. By Mr Horace Walpole . . . Printed for J. Dodsley, published 1 Feb. 'in quarto, price 5s. sewed, with two prints of King Richard and his Queen' (*Daily Adv.* 1 Feb. 1768). 1200 copies were printed (*ante* i. 43).

2. It had been published on the 12th (*Daily Adv.* 8, 12 Feb.).