

way's house<sup>18</sup> was committed by a servant<sup>19</sup> belonging to the Duke of Richmond. I know no more yet. They had a great escape of their lives, though the loss and damage is considerable; and they have been most unhappy, as they have none but old and faithful servants, and could not be persuaded any of them were guilty.

### From GRAY, ca April 1769

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Dated by the allusion to Palgrave, who, as it appears from Gray to Brown 17 April 1769,<sup>1</sup> was in London at this time. Gray 'went to London' 6 April, and returned 'to Cambridge by Hadham' 14 May (*Gray's Naturalist's Journal*).

*Address:* To the Honourable Horace Walpole.

Friday [ca April 1769], Jermyn Street.<sup>2</sup>

MR GRAY (upon the information of Mr Palgrave)<sup>3</sup> lets Mr Walpole know, that there is at *Luton*<sup>4</sup> a chapel built in Henry VII's time, by a Lord Hoo and Hastings,<sup>5</sup> and lined throughout with most beautiful Gothic woodwork;<sup>6</sup> this is going to be demolished,<sup>7</sup> and, he imagines, Mr Walpole may have its inside for a song.

18. 'Yesterday morning [Wednesday, 2 March] between five and six o'clock a fire was discovered in the library of the Right Hon. Henry Seymour Conway, at his house in Warwick Street, near Charing Cross, which consumed a great number of books and writings, and greatly damaged the apartment. It is supposed to have been burning some hours before found out' (*Daily Adv.* 3 March 1768).

19. James Sampson, who was executed 11 May 1768 (*DU DEFFAND* ii. 40, n. 1). The *London Chronicle* 8-10 March 1768 (*sub* 10 March, xxiii. 238) says that he 'was recommended to the General' by the Duke of Richmond, 'and had a place given him in the Tower of £100 a year. It seems he had married a servant of Lady Aylesbury's, the General's lady, and therefore was frequently at the house; but the night of the robbery he concealed himself in the house, and so made his way out, that it was not known of his having been there.'

1. Conjecturally dated 'c. April 20, 1769' in *Gray's Corr.* iii. 1058. Shortly before his death Mr Whibley found the original MS of the letter to Brown with the postmark 17 AP.

2. Except for occasional sojourns in Southampton Row (*ante* ca 28 Oct. 1760), Gray's London address from 1753 to 1770 was 'Mr [William] Roberts, hosier and hatter, at the Three Squirrels in Jermyn Street' (*Gray's Corr.* i. 375-6, iii. 1093, 1186, n. 1). Roberts in 1783 was at the same address (information from Sir Ambrose Heal).

3. William Palgrave (ca 1735-99), Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge, 1764-99; Gray's friend and correspondent (*Gray's Corr.* ii. 576, n. 1).

4. Luton Hoo, Beds, seat of the Earl of Bute, who bought it in 1763 with the manor of Luton (*Vict. Co. Hist., Beds* ii. 353-5).

5. Sir Thomas Hoo (d. 1455), K.G., 1445, cr. (1448) Bn Hoo and Hastings. He lived in the time of Henry VI, not Henry VII.

6. For description and engravings, see Henry Shaw, *History and Antiquities of the Chapel at Luton Park*, 1830. According to Shaw, the embellishments of the chapel, which were installed in the late seventeenth century by Sir Robert Napier of Luton, were probably taken 'from some part of Luton church.' He dates them 1475-1546 (pp. 13-14).

7. 'I hear it [the chapel of Luton] is to