

her attacks,<sup>2</sup> the more violent perhaps for having been now for some years suspended. Talk not of round windows, nor of dying in them; our distemper (remember) is the means of health and *long life*; now this latter is only the name of another distemper, of which I know enough already to say, when the gout pinches me, *'tis well it is nothing worse*. I do not understand why (with your temperance) you are treated so severely; but suspect it is owing to a little indolence and want of motion between the fits, as I have lately heard you complain of a tenderness in your feet that would not let you walk as usual. Man is a creature made to be jumbled, and no matter whether he goes on his head or heels, move or be moved he must. I am convinced I owe my late and present ease to the little expeditions I always make in summer. The smartness of the pain you undergo is an undoubted sign of strength and *youth*, and the sooner it will be over. I know this is poor comfort, but I flatter myself that in some few days you will be at ease, and will have the good nature to tell me so.

I have neither seen Tyson nor Cole of late, but will take care they shall know what you say. The latter lives at Milton<sup>3</sup> near the Ely road. For myself I shall hardly be in town before the end of November.<sup>4</sup> Adieu! I am

Yours ever,

T. G.

### From GRAY, Sunday 17 March 1771

Fragment. Printed by Mason as a footnote to Gray to Beattie 2 July 1770. Reprinted from Mason, *Mem. Gray* 385.

[Cambridge,] March 17, 1771.

**H**E must have a very good stomach that can digest the *Crambe recocta*<sup>1</sup> of Voltaire.<sup>2</sup> Atheism is a vile dish, though all the cooks

. . . having had the gout above these three weeks in my hand, knee, and both feet, and am still lifted in and out of bed by two servants.' HW was put to bed 8 Sept. and had not been 'out of it since but three times to have it made' (HW to Lady Ossory 15 Sept. 1770; see also DU DEFFAND ii. 460).

2. Under 3 Oct. Gray entered in his *Naturalist's Journal*, 'From about this time to 19 Oct. I was confined by a fit of the gout.' See also Gray to Mason 24 Oct. 1770, *Gray's Corr.* iii. 1149.

3. Cole moved to Milton early in 1770 (COLE i. 142, n. 42).

4. Gray 'went to London' 30 Dec., and 'stayed a fortnight' (Gray's *Naturalist's Journal* under 30 Dec. 1770, 12 Jan. 1771). He 'returned to Cambridge' 14 Jan. (*ibid.* under 14 Jan.).

1. Warmed-over cabbage; adapted from *Juvenal* vii. 154.

2. Gray had apparently read the first few volumes of Voltaire's *Questions sur l'En-*