

## HORACE WALPOLE'S CORRESPONDENCE

To MANN, Sunday 19 September 1756

Strawberry Hill, Sept. 19, 1756.

I PROMISED you an account of your brother, as soon as he should return from Bristol, but I deferred it for a week, till I could see him reposed and refreshed, and could judge more fairly. I do think him much mended; I do not say recovered. He looks with colour again, and has got a little flesh, and is able to do much more than before he went. My Lord Radnor<sup>1</sup> thinks he has a great appetite; I did not perceive it when he dined with me. His breath is better, though sometimes troublesome, and he brought back a great cough, which is however much abated. I think him so much better, that I ventured to talk very freely to him upon his own state, and though I allowed him mended, I told him plainly that I was convinced his case would be irrecoverable, if he did not go abroad. At times he swears he will, if he falls back at all; at others he will not listen to it, but pleads the confusion of his affairs— I wish there is not another more unsurmountable cause, the Fury, who not only torments him in this world, but is hurrying him into the next. I have not been able to prevail with him to pass one day or two here with me in tranquillity. I see his life at stake, I feel for him, for you, for myself; I am desperate about it and yet know no remedy! I can only assure you that I will not see it quietly; nor would anything check me from going the greatest lengths with your sister,<sup>2</sup> whom I think effectually, though perhaps not maliciously, a most wicked being, but that I always find it recoils upon your brother— Alas! what signifies whether she murders him from a bad heart or a bad temper?

Poor Mr Chute too has been grievously ill with the gout—he is laid up at his own house,<sup>3</sup> whither I am going to see him.<sup>4</sup>

I feel a little satisfaction that you have an opportunity of returning Richcourt's insults: who thought that the King of Prussia would

1. John Bodville Robartes, last Earl of Radnor of that family. He lived at Twickenham, and was a friend of Mr Mann (HW).

2. Sister-in-law, Galfridus Mann's wife.

3. At the Vine in Hampshire (HW).

Gray had described Chute's attack of the gout in a letter to HW of 8 Sept. (GRAY ii. 93-4).

4. Gray also mentions HW's intention to visit Chute (to HW, 21 Sept., *ibid.* ii. 96), but it is not certain that HW went.