

## TO LADY OSSORY, Saturday 19 June 1784

*Address:* To the Countess of Ossory at Amptill Park, Bedfordshire. *Postmark:* <ISLE>WORTH. 19 IV.

Strawberry Hill, June 19, 1784.

YOU are very obliging, Madam, to embrace any opportunity of reviving our correspondence, and still more kind on that you have taken. I am indeed very happy in Lady Chewton's safety. I am pleased too that she has a boy,<sup>1</sup> as it pleases her and Lord Chewton; nor do I wish her to encumber him with a bevy of indigent infantas<sup>2</sup>—but alas! what is an heir, where there is so little to inherit? Lord Chewton has every amiable virtue that man can have; but virtues are like the pipkins used by chemists in search of the philosopher's stone, which are very worthy utensils when employed in humble offices, but mighty apt to crack in pursuit of gold—and therefore I neither believe nor desire that he would go upon the process. I went to town on Tuesday to inquire after her—and that is all I know of London. I have been constantly here where there is nothing to know, but that it is cold when it should be hot, and that there is as great plenty, as if a board of seasons could carry on the business, and let the place of first commissioner be a sinecure to their principal, the sun. My absence from London has been the reason of my not waiting on Lady Ravensworth;<sup>3</sup> which I certainly will on the first opportunity. If she could do me the honour of visiting Strawberry, it should be made as easy to her Ladyship as I could contrive; nor are there more than fifteen steps in two flights up to the Blue Room, and three more only to the Star Chamber. Will you, Madam, be so good as to negotiate this for me; and to say that in any case, the young lady (whose name I don't know) may command a ticket for any morning she pleases, on giving me notice two or three days before, for you must know that I have been so tormented with visitants, and demands of breach of my rules, and explanations, etc., that I have been forced to print a

1. George Waldegrave (13 June 1784–94), styled Vct Chewton 22 Oct. 1784–9, 5th E. Waldegrave, 1789; drowned in the Thames at Eton 29 June 1794.

2. She had two daughters, her first child

(ante 15 July 1783) and her last (post 9 Oct. 1789), and four sons. See George Kearsley, *Peerage*, [1796], i. 100; Burke, *Peerage*, 1953, p. 2151.

3. At 13 St James's Square (GEC).