

To the DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER, Monday
6 February 1797

Printed for the first time from a photostat of the MS in Kirgate's hand in the possession of Lord Waldegrave.

Monday, Feb. 6th.¹

Madam,

THE abscess that has been so long under my left arm² has broken this morning, and has made a very proper discharge, so I hope now to be quite delivered from it.³ I have the

honour to be, etc.

ORFORD

1. The Duchess added, '1797 when he was dying.' HW died Thursday 2 March 1797 at 5 P.M. This is the last of all his surviving letters.

2. 'An abscess under his Lordship's arm very painful; another in his neck broke inwardly, yet the fever is abated and he can eat. No recovery is expected but he may linger for some time' ('Joseph Farington's Anecdotes,' DALRYMPLE 336).

3. During his illness the Duchess of Gloucester had written to Anne Clement: 'Lord Orford is so much mended that he was to go out tonight! to be sure it is wonderful! I was with him last Friday and he seemed very glad to see me' (1 Jan. 1797) and on 19 Feb., 'he is recovering; it is wonderful!' (MSS now WSL).