

# HORACE WALPOLE'S CORRESPONDENCE

TO CHARLES LYTTTELTON,<sup>1</sup>  
Wednesday 28 August 1734 OS

Printed from a photostat of the MS in the possession of Viscount Cobham, Hagley Hall, Stourbridge, Worcs. First printed in *N&Q* 1869, 4th ser., iii. 2-3. Reprinted, *Toynbee* i. 2-3. The MS descended in the Lyttelton family to the present owner.

Eton, August 28, 1734.

My dearest Charles,

**I** FIND we not only sympathize in the tenderest friendship for one another, but also in the result of that, which is the jealousy you mention.<sup>2</sup> If you have given me a kind trial in your own mind and condemned me, I assure you I have over and over, though unwillingly, returned you the compliment: but to set the matter to rights, in which I have had the pleasure first to acquit you, you must know I came here but yesterday from home,<sup>3</sup> where I have been, almost ever since I saw my dear Charles, detained with a violent cold and fever, and through the ill-natured stupidity of our people here, who can't judge of what friends suffer by not hearing from one another, I did not receive so much as the alleviation of my illness by my dear Charles's letters,<sup>4</sup> which they had hoarded up here for me like old gold, equally dear to me indeed with that, but hoarded up without my having the pleasure of knowing my riches. But I am afraid my eagerness to clear myself from the imputation of neglecting to answer my dear Charles's letters, has made me tire your patience with a tedious roll of excuses, when I know one word would have satisfied my dear Charles's good nature of my innocence. I wish Randal<sup>5</sup> were but as sensible of the pleasure I take in writing to you, as I am, and then

1. (1714-68), 3d son of Sir Thomas Lyttelton, 4th Bt, of Hagley Hall, Stourbridge, Worcs; educated at Eton and University College, Oxford; D.C.L., 1745; Bp of Carlisle 1762-8; P.S.A. 1765-8; antiquary and divine (COLE i. 144 n. 3). Along with HW and George Montagu, Lyttelton was a member of HW's Eton 'triumvirate' (MONTAGU i. 4).

2. Lyttelton's letter is missing.

3. Sir Robert Walpole's house, Orford House, adjoining the Royal Hospital at Chelsea (DALRYMPLE 4 n. 1).

4. All missing.

5. Perhaps Thomas Randal, Eton College postman (*Eton Coll. Reg.*).