

To the Rev. THOMAS BIRCH, Saturday 8 July 1758

Printed from a photostat of the MS in the British Museum (Add. MS 4320, f. 101). First printed, Wright iii. 368. Reprinted, Cunningham iii. 147; Toynbee iv. 153-4 (closing and signature omitted in all three editions). The MS was among the Birch papers bequeathed to the BM on his death in 1766.

Address: To the Reverend Dr Birch in Norfolk Street.

Arlington Street, July 8th 1758.

Sir,

AS YOU have been so good as to favour me with your assistance,¹ I flatter myself you will excuse my begging it once more. I am told that you mentioned to Dr Jortin,² a Lord Mountjoy³ who lived in the reign of Henry VIII, as an author. Will you be so good as to tell me anything you know of him and what he wrote. I shall entreat the favour of this notice as soon as possibly you can, because my book⁴ is printing off and I am afraid of being past the place where he must come in. I am just going out of town, but a line put into the post any night before nine o'clock, will find me next morning at Strawberry Hill.

I am Sir

Your obliged humble servant

HOR. WALPOLE

1. See *ante* 4 May 1758.

2. John Jortin (1698-1770), critic and historian; author of *The Life of Erasmus*, 2 vols. 1758-60.

3. William Blount (ca 1478-1534), 4th Bn Mountjoy, 1485. Erasmus dedicated his *Adages* to him and he addressed three

Latin letters to Erasmus. Two of Mountjoy's letters to Henry VIII are printed in Samuel Bentley's *Excerpta historica*, 1831, pp. 286-9.

4. The 2d edn of *Royal and Noble Authors*. HW did not include Mountjoy in it.