

more than they ought to demand, are bound in honour to lay the ill success where it is due, on the cause in which they apply. I cannot say so much, my Lord, without going farther; if I have asked more than was reasonable, as the event has shown, I ought to ask your Lordship's pardon for putting the least difficulty upon your humanity, and I have no excuse but in my judging of your Lordship by my own heart; and you will allow me to say that when one asks a favour which one has no right to ask, it is at least a proof of the high idea one has of the person's good nature to whom one applies. That good nature, if it could have been exerted, I am persuaded, would. A most humane King, and a tender-hearted minister invite solicitations for the wretched, and when they cannot yield, will pity the object, and forgive the solicitor; this reign, I have full persuasion, will not be a season of discouraging that truly British principle, good nature. Your Lordship may see how much I trust to this opinion, by deferring so long to subscribe myself

My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant

HOR. WALPOLE

FROM LORD GRIMSTON, Sunday 7 June 1761

Printed from the MS now wsl. First printed, Toynbee *Supp.* iii. 168–9. For the history of the MS see *ante* 8 May 1761.

Gorhambury, 7 June.

Sir,

AS YOU are so generous to look upon the small assistance that lay in my power to give Mr Chambers<sup>1</sup> towards completing your work, as an obligation to yourself, I assure you I shall esteem myself abundantly rewarded, by being honoured with a copy of it, and a print of the picture,<sup>2</sup> both which I shall endeavour to place to the best advantage. No one could be either easier accommodated, or

1. Thomas Chambers (ca 1724–89), engraver of Irish extraction, who engraved several heads for *Anecdotes of Painting* (DALRYMPLE 96 n. 12).

2. Of Sir Nathaniel Bacon (1585–1627), the painter (*ante* 8 May 1761, nn. 6 and 8).