

## TO UNKNOWN, Thursday 8 November 1792

Printed for the first time from the MS fragment now wsl. The MS is untraced until sold Sotheby's 18 June 1979 (Autograph Letters, Literary Manuscripts and Historical Documents Sale), lot 23 (in a small miscellaneous collection of autograph letters), to John Wilson (Autographs) Ltd; acquired from Wilson by wsl, August 1979.

The MS fragment consists of two separate portions, both mounted on a leaf from an old album: the upper portion contains the dateline and salutation, and the lower portion contains part of the last sentence, the closing, and the signature.

*Endorsed in an unidentified hand:* Horace Walpole Earl of Orford.

Strawberry Hill, Nov. 8, 1792.

Sir,

. . . and show this note to him, he will pay you that sum.

I am Sir

Your obedient humble servant

ORFORD

## TO RICHARD GOUGH, Wednesday 14 November 1792

Printed from a copy of the MS made by John W. Ford, of Enfield Old Park, Enfield, Middlesex. First printed in Nichols, *Lit. Anec.* vi. 292. Reprinted, Toynbee xv. 163-4. The MS is untraced until sold Sotheby's 6 Aug. 1884 (Collection of Autograph Letters Sale), lot 281, to Barker; *penes* John W. Ford in 1900; not further traced.

*Address:* To Richard Gough Esq. at Enfield. *Franked:* Isleworth November the fourteenth 1792. Free. Orford.

Strawberry Hill, Nov. 14, 1792.

Sir,

I HAVE a portrait of Law,<sup>1</sup> and should not object to letting a copy of it be taken, but I doubt that could not be done, being in crayons, by Rosalba, under a glass; and any shaking being very prejudicial to crayons, I fixed the picture in one of the niches of my gallery under a network of carving, whence it cannot possibly be removed without pulling the niche to pieces.<sup>2</sup> The picture too being

1. John Law (1671-1729), of Lauriston; Scottish adventurer; controller-general of French finance, 1720. A pastel of Law by Rosalba Carriera (1675-1757), presumably the one at SH, was drawn by her in Nov. 1720 at Paris (see DALRYMPLE 167 n. 10). HW in 1782 offered to allow Lord Buchan to have it copied, and wrote on

12 May 1783, 'I have two or three different prints of him, and an excellent head of him in crayons by Rosalba, the best of her portraits' (ibid. 167, 180-1; 'Des. of SH,' *Works* ii. 463).

2. For this reason the copy apparently was not made in 1782-3 (DALRYMPLE 167).

3. 'The eagle found in the gardens of