

Dear Mary

It was I, that desired Bob to let you know, how glad I should be to see you in Town. I now repeat the same thing to you myself, & shall be obliged to your Mamma if she can spare you the beginning of next week, tho' but for a few days. the letter of Attorney, w<sup>ch</sup> I send inclosed, is not meant to hinder your journey, but that in case your own inclination does not serve, or your Mamma is not - able to spare you, Dolly may be empower'd to act for you, for, as you have already go't N: Annuities, I thought you would like <sup>rather</sup> to buy in there (while they are so low) than into any other of the funds. the expence of this is a trifle, w<sup>ch</sup> I shall be glad to pay myself, if you will come instead of it, & make it useles.

The Receipt is to be sign'd, & witness'd; & the two Witnesses required to the letter of Attorney should specify their place of abode. you will enclose, & send them both - carefully to your Sister; but (as I said before) I should much rather see you in person. let us know by tomorrow night's post. Adieu, I am your friend & Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. Gray.

May 3. 1759. Gloucester-Street.

M<sup>rs</sup> O: is never good for any thing, but when she is laid up, & can do nothing: as she recovers, she recovers her Fantrums, & her Invegues.  
Comp<sup>ts</sup> to your Mamma, & Grand-Papa.

THOMAS GRAY, A. L. S., 3 May 1759, to Mary Antrobus.

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ALS, 1 page. Single sheet, 19.9 x 16 cm.

Laid paper. Watermark: upper part of crowned oval.

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Notes: 1. Mary Antrobus, who nursed Gray in his final illness, was his second cousin, maternal. "Mamma" was Mrs. William Antrobus (widow of Gray's uncle); Dolly (Mary's sister) was Mrs. Richard (Dorothy) Comings; "Grand-Papa" was Mary's maternal grandfather, Thomas Nutting, Alderman of Cambridge; Mrs. O[lliffe], Gray's aunt Jane (whom he never mentioned favorably

in his letters), and Mary's brother Robert complete the Antrobus roster for the letter in hand.

2. The price, as of 27 April 1759, of new South Sea Annuities was  $81\frac{3}{4}$  pounds—down from the 2 April price of  $83\frac{7}{8}$  (*Gentleman's Magazine*, April 1759, p. 196).

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