

July. 25. 1757. Stoke.

Dear S<sup>r</sup>

I thank you for the second little letter, for your Cambridge-Anecdotes, & (suffer me to say too) for the trouble you have had on my account. I am going to add to it by sending you my poetical Cargo to distribute. tho' whatever the Advertisement says, it will not be this fortnight yet. for you must know (what you will like no more, than I do, yet it was not in my power any how to avoid it) M<sup>r</sup> W., who has set up a printing-press in his own house at Twickenham, earnestly desired, that he might print it for Dodsley, & as there is but one hand employ'd, you must think it will take up some time to dispatch 2000 Copies. as soon as may be, you will have a parcel sent you. which you will dispose of, as follows. M<sup>rs</sup> Bonfoy, M<sup>r</sup> Bonfoy, D<sup>r</sup> Long, Gaskarth, & all the Fellows resident, M<sup>r</sup> Montagu, & Southwell (if they happen to be there) Master of S<sup>t</sup> Johns, (I know, he is at Rochester, but it suffices to send it to his lodge) Master of Bennet, M<sup>r</sup> Hurd, M<sup>r</sup> Balguy, M<sup>r</sup> Falbot, M<sup>r</sup> Nourse, M<sup>r</sup> Neville (of Jesus) M<sup>r</sup> Bickham, M<sup>r</sup> Hadley, M<sup>r</sup> Newcome. if you think, I forget any body, pray send it them in my name. what remain upon your hands, you will hide in a corner.

I am sorry to say I know no more of Mason, than  
you do. it is my own fault, I am afraid, for I have  
not yet answer'd that letter.

His Prussian Majesty wrote a letter to the King  
ing himself in a bad situation, from w<sup>ch</sup> (he said)  
nothing but a Coup de Maitre could extricate him.  
we have a secret expedition going forward: all I know is  
that L<sup>d</sup> Ancram, S<sup>r</sup> John Mordaunt, & Gen: Conway are  
to bear a part in it. the Duke has been very ill  
with his leg; Ranby was sent for, but countermanded;  
the Mar: L<sup>d</sup> Etrées having sent him his own Surgeons.  
I would wish to be like M<sup>r</sup> Bonfoy, & think that  
every thing turns out the best in the world, but it  
won't do. I am stupid & low-spirited, but ever

Yours  
J.

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1757

I had very few days I know no more of what  
you do & I am very much of my own mind but I  
am not enough that like.

The British Army were a lot of  
Lippitt in a bad situation, from a  
long, but a long to their south towards  
the great expedition was forward all  
the time of the British Army a few  
more days in the field but had  
not been very long.

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THOMAS GRAY, A. L. S., 25 July 1757, to James Brown.

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Dear S<sup>r</sup>

I thank you for the second little letter, for your Cambridge-Anecdotes, & (suffer me to say too) for the trouble you have had on my account. I am going to add to it by sending you my poetical Cargo to distribute. tho' whatever the Advertisement says, it will not be this fortnight yet. for you must know (what you will like no more, than I do; yet it was not in my power any how to avoid it) M<sup>r</sup> W:, who has set up a printing-press in his own house at Twickenham, earnestly desired, that he might print it for Dodsley, & as there is but one hand employ'd, you must think it will take up some time to dispatch 2000 copies. as soon as may be, you will have a parcel sent you. w<sup>ch</sup> you will dispose of, as follows. M<sup>rs</sup> Bonfoy, M<sup>r</sup> Bonfoy, D<sup>r</sup> Long, Gaskarth, & all the Fellows resident, M<sup>r</sup> Montagu, & Southwell (if they happen to be there) Master of S<sup>t</sup> Johns, (I know, he is at Rochester, but it suffices to send it to his lodge) Master of Bennet, M<sup>r</sup> Hurd, M<sup>r</sup> Balguy, M<sup>r</sup> Talbot, M<sup>r</sup> Nourse, M<sup>r</sup> Neville (of Jesus) M<sup>r</sup> Bickham, M<sup>r</sup> Hadley, M<sup>r</sup> Newcome. If you think, I forget any body, pray send it them in my name. what remain upon your hands, you will hide in a corner.

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His Prussian Majesty wrote a letter to the K: owning himself in a bad situation, from w<sup>ch</sup> (he said) nothing but a *Coup de Maitre* could extricate him. we have a secret expedition going forward: all I know is that L<sup>d</sup> Ancram, S<sup>r</sup> John Mordaunt, & Gen:<sup>l</sup> Conway are to

bear a part in it. the Duke has been very ill with his leg; Ranby was sent for, but countermanded; the Mar:<sup>1</sup> d'Estrées having sent him his own Surgeons. I would wish to be like Mr Bonfoy, & think that every thing turns out the best in the world, but it won't do. I am stupid & low-spirited, but ever

Yours

TG:

ALS, 2 pages. Double sheet, 23 x 18.3 cm.

Wove paper. No watermark.

Docket: July 25<sup>th</sup> 1757 [in Brown's hand?]

Provenance: Inserted in *Odes by Mr. Gray* (Printed at Strawberry-Hill, MDCCLVII).

Published, without variation from the Lewis MS, in *Correspondence of Thomas Gray*, ed. Paget Toynbee and Leonard Whibley (Oxford, 1935), II, 508–511 (no. 241).

Notes: 1. Rev. James Brown, a virtually lifelong Gray intimate, was Fellow and later Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and (together with William Mason, Fellow of Pembroke from 1749 to 1757, when he resigned in favor of London and the Chaplainship to Lord Holderness) executor of Gray's estate. The "Cambridge-Anecdotes" apparently came to Gray in MS form. The "trouble" the Gray alludes to was about "The Bard"—probably having to do with footnoting.

2. Robert Dodsley paid Gray forty guineas for the copyright to Gray's *Odes*, which Horace Walpole's "one hand" began printing at Strawberry Hill on 16 July.

3. See Toynbee and Whibley, pages 509–510, for identification of the persons who were to receive gratis copies—the 2,000 printed were priced at one shilling.

4. The military gossip in the final paragraph has to do with Frederick the Great's lifting the siege of Prague. The bad leg belonged to the Duke of Cumberland, who on the day after this letter was written suffered defeat, at Hastenbeck in Germany, by Marshal d'Estrées.

5. A final note on provenance, which I have been unable to trace: owing to the accuracy of their transcription, the statement of Toynbee and Whibley that they had access to the Lewis MS cannot be disputed, but they do not say where it was consulted.

6. Here published by permission of The Clarendon Press, Oxford.