

to tell me any fresher piece of news than that' with which you end your little modicum, I should be well enough content, for though I heard it every day, I should wonder as much as ever, and it would never be the less agreeable for repetition; I rely wholly upon you, my correspondent, for the truth of it, as the only person who can tell what passes in that little country where my concerns lie. My motions at present (which you ask after the particulars of) are much like those of a pendulum, or (Dr Longically² speaking) oscillatory;³ I swing from Chapel or Hall home, and from home to Chapel or Hall; all the strange incidents that happen in my journeys and returns I shall be sure to acquaint you with; the most wonderful that I have been able to pick up as yet is, that it rains exceedingly; this has refreshed the prospect very agreeably, as the way for the most part lies between green fields on either hand, terminated with buildings at some distance; seats, I presume; and they seem of great antiquity. The roads are very good, being, as I suspect, the work of Julius Cæsar's army, for they still preserve in many places the appearances of a pavement in pretty good repair, and if they were not so near home, might perhaps be as much admired as the Via Appia, that we hear so much cried up. There are at present several rivulets to be crossed, and which serve to enliven the view all round; the country is exceeding fruitful in ravens, and such black cattle. But not to tire you with my travels, you must know Mr Turner⁴ is come down, his list is vastly near being full, notwithstanding⁵ which, and the great cares and duties attending his office,⁶ he says he thinks to go to Paris every year. I think too to go to town the week after next, and am,

Yours eternally,

T. GRAY

PS. I have forgot my English, and can't spell.⁷

1. Doubtless an expression of his friendship.

2. Roger Long (1680-1770), D.D., astronomer and divine, Master of Pembroke 1733-70; F.R.S., 1729; Vice-Chancellor 1733-4; Lowndean Professor of Astronomy 1750-70. For his inventions, which he kept in his Lodge at Pembroke, see Edmund Carter, *History of . . . Cambridge*, 1753, p. 78; see also *Gray's Corr.* i. 314; Nichols, *Lit. Anec.* vi. 94-5, 639-40; Roger Long's *Astronomy*, 1742-64, ii. pp. iii-iv.

3. 'All that follows is a humorously hyperbolic description of the quadrangle at Peterhouse' (Mason, *Mem. Gray* 35).

4. Shallet Turner (1692-1762), Fellow of Peterhouse 1715-48; LL.D., 1728; Regius Professor of Modern History 1735-62; F.R.S., 1741 (Venn, *Alumni Cantab.*).

5. So in MS. See PS. below.

6. The Professorship of Modern History and Modern Languages, founded by George I in 1724, which Gray himself held 1768-71. Gray's comment is ironical, since Turner never lectured. The first to deliver lectures on this foundation was Gray's successor John Symonds (Winstanley, *Unreformed Cambridge* 155-60).

7. See n. 5 above. 'Agreeable' and 'Chapel' are also misspelled in the MS.