

see he now is a little sick of Rousseau himself,²⁹ but I hope it will not cure him of his anger to me. However, his book will I am sure entertain you.

I will add but a word or two more. I am criticized for the expression *tinker up*³⁰ in the Preface. Is this one of those that you object to? I own I think such a low expression, placed to ridicule an absurd instance of wise folly, very forcible. Replace it with an elevated word or phrase, and to my conception it becomes as flat as possible.

George Selwyn says I may, if I please, write historic doubts on the present Duke of G[loucester]³¹ too. Indeed they would be doubts, for I know nothing certainly.³²

Will you be so kind as to look into Leslie *De rebus Scotorum*,³³ and see if Perkin's proclamation is there,³⁴ and if there, how authenticated. You will find in Speed my reason for asking this.

I have written in such a hurry, I believe you will scarce be able to read my letter—and as I have just been writing French,³⁵ perhaps the sense may not be clearer than the writing. Adieu!

Yours ever,

HOR. WALPOLE

From GRAY, Thursday 25 February 1768

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is mortal, and if unfeeling, make him susceptible! If I have any prophecy, the printing presses will be soon discharged from Strawberry Hill, and English Horace ignobly buried with the *Noble Authors*. . . . The only external evidence for attributing this piece to Boswell is HW's statement that it was his; the style however is Boswellian. See F. A. Pottle, 'The Part Played by Horace Walpole and James Boswell in the Quarrel between Rousseau and Hume,' in *Philological Quarterly*, 1925, iv. 351–63, where the complete text of the letter is reprinted. See also G. J. Williams to Selwyn 26 Dec. 1766 in John H. Jesse, *George Selwyn*, 1882, ii. 120–1.

29. 'While he was at a distance, his singular eloquence filled our minds with high ideas of the wild philosopher. When he

came into the walks of men, we know alas! how much these ideas suffered' (Boswell's *Account of Corsica*, 1768, p. 262; see also pp. 363–4).

30. 'Chronology and astronomy are forced to tinker up and reconcile, as well as they can, those uncertainties' (*Historic Doubts*, p. vi).

31. An allusion to the affair between the Duke and Lady Waldegrave, who had been secretly married in 1766. See *ante* i. 48.

32. HW seems to admit the marriage in his letter to Montagu 29 June 1770 (MONTAGU ii. 310).

33. *De origine, moribus, et rebus gestis Scotorum*. . . ., Rome, 1578.

34. See *post* 25 Feb. 1768.

35. To Mme du Deffand (DU DEFFAND ii. 26–7).