

APPENDIX 11

WALPOLE ON SAMUEL MARTIN

See *ante* 16 Aug. 1788, iii. 13.

HW quoted the lines on Martin in a draft of the note on Mason's *An Heroic Epistle to Sir William Chambers*, line 95. His final version of the note, which does not include the verses on Martin, is in Mason, *Satirical Poems* 62-3; the earlier version (now wsl; here first printed) follows:

IN¹ this blank stood the name of Martin, which the printer was probably bribed to omit—the person satirized having good cause to wish his name should be forever forgotten. This person was Mr Samuel Martin, Secretary of the Treasury, and dear friend of Lord Bute,² even after he had deserved to be shunned by all mankind. Being reproached with his baseness by the celebrated John Wilkes, he practised shooting at a target for six months before he ventured to challenge his upbraider, and had attained such address in the science of murder that, he wounded Wilkes in the duel. For this great and other lesser services, Martin was rewarded by Lord Bute with the reversion of my place of Usher of the Exchequer; not long after which, on my falling very ill, though not dangerously, as was reported, he had the indecency to apply to my deputy Mr Charles Bedford to know the value of the employment. The upright young man refused to satisfy him; on which the frontless miscreant threatened to discard him as soon as I should expire—but I lived to write the following lines on that transaction—

Martin, impatient for the death of all
Who taunt his dirt, or stop its greedy call,
Watches³ my sickly couch, and sues to learn
The profits he shall gather from my urn—
Oft to my honest clerk, tho' scorn'd repairs—⁴

1. In the MS, the verses precede HW's comment.

2. Following 'Bute,' HW wrote, then struck, 'after.'

3. HW first wrote 'Molests.'

4. For this line HW first wrote 'Sues to my honest servant; scorn'd!'