Love and Madness 1786:

### Letter LI: Pages 191-193: (Chatterton Letter I)

**Letter LI**, refers to one of a sequence of imaginary letters between James Hackman, a soldier who became a clergyman, & Martha Ray, who was the mistress of the earl of Sandwich. She was shot by Hackman (her lover) as she was leaving Covent Garden in 1779.

Letter LI is a long letter, which stretches from p.140 to p.272 in Love and Madness. I have broken the letter down into sets of pages containing key items. At the bottom of each set of pages is a link to take you to the next set of pages in sequence, or you can click the link below and return to the Croft contents page.

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#### Contents

## Chatterton contents: Letter LI: (Chatterton Letter I)

★ Pages 191-193: Scroll to <u>View</u>
Chatterton's letter to his Mother, April 26th 1770 (Letter 1):

'Dear Mother, Here I am, safe, and in high spirits'

Croft condemns Walpole for his treatment of Chatterton.

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# Pages 191-193

#### London, April 26, 1778.

LETTER

Dear Mother,

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Here I am, safe, and in high spirits-To give you

I.

a journal of my tour would not be unnecessary. After riding in the basket to Brissington, I mounted the top of the coach and rid easy; and agreeably entertained with the conversation

### conversation of a quaker in dress, but little so in personals

lamented his having fent his tools to Worcester, as otherwise he would have accompanied me to London. I lest him at Bath; when, finding it rained pretty fast, I entered an inside passenger to Speenhamland, the half-way stage, paying seven shillings. 'Twas lucky I did so, for it snowed all night, and on Marlborough downs the snow was near a foot high.

At seven in the morning I breakfasted at Speenhamland, and then mounted the coach-box for the remainder of the

LETTER LI.

day, which was a remarkable fine one.—Honest gee-ho

complimented me with assuring me, that I sat bolder and tighter than any person who ever rid with him—Dined at Stroud most luxuriantly, with a young gentleman who had slept all the preceding night in the machine; and an old mercantile genius, whose school-boy son had a great deal of wit, as the father thought, in remarking that Windsor was as old as our Saviour's time.

Got into London about 5 o'clock in the evening—called upon Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Fell, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Dodsley. Great encouragment from them; all approved of my design;—shall soon be settled.—Call upon Mr.

Lambert; shew him this, or tell him, if I deserve a recommendation, he would oblige me to give me one—if I do
not, it will be beneath him to take notice of me.\* Seen
all

\* An anecdote, less authentic and less striking than this,
in the course of a long life, shall confer immortality, and
afford subject for eternal panegyrics. Recollect the age and

The

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the fituation of Chatterton at this time.

LETTER

&c. &c. &c. remember.—I remain,

"all aunts, coufins—all well—and I am welcome. Mr. T. Wensley is alive, and coming home.—Sifter, grandmother,

# T. Chatterton.

Mr. H. by observing, that, when Mr. Walpole wrote Chatterton word he wanted faith about the ancient poems he had received, Chatterton maintained their genuineness,

Your dutiful fon,

and demanded to have them returned, as they were the property of another gentleman; when Mr. W. went to France without returning them, the same spirit which led him to write thus to his mother, led him to demand his poems in a haughtier style of Mr. W. on his return to England, and to write him word, that "he would not have "dared to use him so it, if he had not acquainted him with "the narrowness of his circumstances." This Mr. W. calls "fingularly importment."

Let me ask what treatment Mr. W. would expect from an equal to whom he should tacitly resuse to return something which had been lent? Let me ask again, what else

panies (especially when in want) "that consciousness of "superior abilities," to which even Mr. W. cannot result applause?

K

LET

could be expected from the foreness which always accom-

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