

My Lord¹

To tell your Lordship the Truth, I did believe and do so still, that the two Lines you returnd me were the very same you carry'd out, and that you are not able to counterfeit them; tho I know that the thing is practicable by means of engraving. However, I promise your Lordship, that I shall search the Matter to the bottom; and intend to be at Balencrief for that Purpose. Meanwhile, in my present Uncertainty, I hope your Lordship will excusd me for not subscribing more than the Initials of my Name, as not knowing what Use may be made of my full Subscription I have the Honour to be My Lord

5 April	Your Lordship's
P. S.	Most obedient humble Servant
J'ai l'honneur de felicitér	D. H.
votre Seigneurie sur l'heureux	
accouchement d'aujourd'hui	

注1 追伸 (P.S.) という証拠があつてさえ、日付不明。なぜなら、エリバンクは 1776 年、非嫡出の子供 6 人の父であること、また幼年期に亡くなった他の子供たちにもその可能性が前々から残っていることを認めていた。

2 確認不可。それゆえ、悪ふざけの冗談か実際の冗談かその真意が欠けている。

*1 Heawood, PL. 351. No. 2745. Cf., David Hume collection 3.