

This letter remained unanswered as well as one sent by him to the same publisher two months afterwards, in which he stated his discovery of the tragedy of *Ælla*, for the copying of which he asked him to advance him one guinea, the amount asked by the possessor of the manuscript for the privilege of making a transcript of it.

His next scheme for introducing his so-called antique writings to the world was his attempt to gain the patronage of Horace Walpole, the author of the "Castle of Otranto," to whom he forwarded a letter and two specimen manuscripts. Walpole graciously replied, asking with model suavity where the Rowley poems could be found, and adding that he should not be sorry to print them, or at least a specimen of them. Chatterton rushed into what seems almost like a net cunningly prepared for him. On receiving Walpole's letter he at once sent him other manuscripts, but these being submitted to his friends, Gray and Mason, they unhesitatingly declared them to be unauthentic, and Walpole's next letter was as frigid and overbearing as his first was courteous and condescending. This was certainly a severe disappointment to Chatterton, who had founded great expectations upon the first encouraging letter received from Walpole. Whether the latter did right in afterwards completely ignoring him will likely remain an open question, however probable it may appear that if Walpole had extended to him the desired patronage, he would have realized his dreams of greatness instead of sadly yielding so soon to his hapless fate.

In April, 1770, Chatterton's apprenticeship abruptly came to a close, through what may be considered a strategy on his part, it being conceded that the paper writing, which was the cause of his dismissal, was purposely left by him on his desk in order that it would fall into the hands of Mr. Lambert. It was Chatterton's last will and testament, written partly in verse and towards the end in prose, stating that he would die the next day, and making amusing bequests to some of his Bristol acquaintances. During the few days preceding his writing this serio-comic document he had acted with strange caprice among Mr. Lambert's servants and this conduct, though not new to him, together with the discovery of the will, made Mr. Lambert cancel the articles of apprenticeship. Chatterton long before this had decided to try his fortune as a writer in London—that Mecca towards which so many men of genius hasten. Articles from his pen had already appeared in the *Town and Country Magazine*, a London periodical of the first rank, and the state of political