

His M<sup>ty</sup> answer to  
L<sup>d</sup>. North letter about  
H. C. J. de Grey &  
April 3<sup>d</sup>. 1778.

Draft of 2882

2881

Lord North, Whenever a difficulty arises in affairs the longer  
it is delayed the more fresh ones naturally arise; at first  
appearance the new one started by the Chief Justice seems  
unpleasant, but on consideration I find it alleviates many  
for it would be impossible to give him a Peerage at this  
time, consequently he will decline returning, therefore the  
Solicitor General must decide between being Attorney  
General or consenting to have the Master of the Rolls  
persuaded to make place for him; by either of these  
means he will be kept in the House of Commons; as to  
the Chief Justice thinking himself ill used if M<sup>r</sup>.  
Thurloe is made a Peer, if he has not the smallest  
foundation. I offered him the Great Seal and a  
Peerage he declined both. I want as able Chancellor  
and therefore have pitched on M<sup>r</sup>. Thurloe it is no  
preference, the giving a Man a Peerage because  
he holds an Office in which he cannot be of compleat  
use without a seat in the House of Lords.

Levens House  $\frac{m}{2}$ . p. l. C. Rk  
April 3<sup>d</sup>. 1778

*[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is illegible due to fading and mirroring.]*