

H. M. to Lord North

Apr. 3 1778

2882

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 retiring, 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 Mr. Thurlow is made a Peer, it has not the smallest foundation; I offered him the Great Seal and a Peerage he declined both; I want an able Chancellor and therefore have pitched on Mr. Thurlow 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

Leicester House

April 3. 1778.

<sup>m</sup>  
2. p. b. P. M.

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

3 Apr 1778

*[Faint handwritten signature or name, possibly "R. B. B."]*