

Draft to Lord North
Lucas House April 15th 1778
5th P.M.

2913

Lord North, Seeing the embarrassment You had got into
from strong solicitations of pressing me to grant three Degraves
on the promotion of M^r. Thurlow to the Great Seal, and feeling
on my part how much my consenting to it would be blamed in
the public; I resolved to take on myself the unpleasant task
of at least getting one of them postponed; that You might
not be blamed by any one of the parties concerned, I saw M^r.
De Grey early this morning, told him it was without Your knowledge
or that of any other person, that I felt the Chief Justice
might wish to have a Degrave as an advantage to his family,
for that from his state of health it could not enable him to
attend Parliament, that three Degraves to his Profession
would not be right, that I could not consent to it; but if the
Chief Justice would consent to retire for the convenience of
my Service, I would promise on the first promotion of
persons to Degraves exclusive of the present law arrangements
I would confer one on him, and that if he should not
live till then, it should be in the case of his son. The Chief Justice has sent M^r. De Grey
to explain his hearty acquiescence, of which the enclosed
paper

paper is an exact copy. I desire therefore not an hour longer
may be delayed in my calling forth the Attorney General
and in gratifying the wishes of the Solicitor General;
I am willing to mention to the Lord Chancellor myself
the necessity of his resigning, and am certain he will
rather chuse the intimation should come from me,
than any other person.

Lucas Houde

April 15. 1778

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58 1/2 P.M.