

hd. Stourmont,

3566

14 James's Street. 1. 1779
M
40 P.M.

Your Majesty will I hope excuse the liberty I take of laying before you the first Draught of the intended Letter to the Empress of Russia. as it is a Matter of some Difficulty and liable to Inconvenience if improperly drawn, I thought it my Duty to submit it to Your Majesty's Consideration before it is communicated to the Cabinet. It struck me Sir that a Letter of mere Compliment would be productive of no good, and that therefore it would be proper to make it so for a Letter of

Business as to give a chance of drawing
some favorable specific Declaration from
the Empress in Her answer to yr Majesty.
at the same Time it was necessary that
this should be done in such a Manner
as to make this Step which is out of
the usual Course of Business liable
to as little Inconvenience as possible
if either now or at any future Period
an improper use should be made
of it. The general Temper and
Disposition of the Russian Cabinet
seem to make this Precaution very
necessary.