

For grounds for assigning this to 1776 see note  
by J.R. Christie in corresp. file \*  
H.M. to Ld Bute \*

4448

<sup>fall of North's ministry</sup>  
It gives me ever pain to answer any one in a dubious manner, and  
it must consequently much more so to my Friend, but I should  
think myself culpable if I did not convey the most secret feelings  
of my heart on this occasion; whenever the promotion of Peers takes  
place from the time I have fought it off, as the many  
engagements & necessities of particular pinching moments  
have not in the most smooth times, obliged me to consent to  
make the number larger than I should have chosen; this  
makes every addition to it still more unadvisable; Lord  
Mount Stuart is certain of a seat in the House of Lords;  
None indeed it is far very far off therefore it cannot  
be much an object to him, besides the House of Commons  
is the scene for a Man to exercise his talents, and to acquire  
that facility which the Superior House never can give occasion  
to. That may quite unbarbless myself I must add, the  
cruel attacks you have met with, would not this give fresh  
handle for it, I only throw this out for consideration; should  
you after all still desire to have the request publicly conveyed  
to me, I should think Lord North the proper channel, and will  
in that case duly weigh the case but cannot give any other  
answer at present as I will do what on the most mature consideration may seem  
most advisable.

\* These two notes were written on the original manuscript  
(replaced 1957) in the hand of Miss Mackenzie

