

Draft to E. of Shelburne  
Windsor May 7. 1782 <sup>on</sup> p. 7. 2 M

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I take very kindly Ld. Shelburne's Attention in communicating to me  
a Copy of the Contractors Bill, with the Amendment moved and carried  
by Ld. Ashburton and the heat of the D<sup>o</sup> of Richmond and Ld. Doby  
in getting the House of Lords upon it under an idea of its altering  
the Essence of the Bill. I shall copy the Article as amended that I  
may see its tendency better than one not in the habit of amending  
Bills can at first sight; but so many Independent Lords voting for  
the Amendment and all the Law Lords is a convincing proof  
to me that the idea was rather capricious than founded. I can  
help commending the prudence of Ld. Shelburne in forbearing  
speaking, for if the D<sup>o</sup> of Richmond shall try to stir up any heat  
in the Ministry on this occasion, the conduct of Ld. Shelburne will  
enable him to act with more dignity than if he had at the  
first hour stood forth.

I own I begin to think that there is a plan of bringing  
things if possible into confusion, the ill success all this hasty  
Negotiations have as yet met with; the inutility of so openly  
avowing American Independence which is an article in all  
Gov. Fox's letters to the Ministers abroad and his adoption of  
all the wild ideas of the Spa concerning the Federal League  
give but too much reason to authorize such an idea.

