

Draft to E. of Shelburne . 6
Windsor Aug. 12th 1782. ^{on} 20th p. 9. A. M.

4919

Windsor Aug. 12th 1782.
^{on} 20th p. 9. A. M.

I have read the two letters Lord Shelburne received Yesterday from France and shall fairly own that by what I have seen from the correspondence of Mr. Goussier I have but little opinion of his talents, yet it confirms my opinion that Dr. Franklin only plays with us and has no intention fairly to treat. Mr. Oswald seems very sensible and the present letter before me shows he is now not in the least inclined to be indiscreet, the treaty negotiating with Spain is the strongest proof of the insincerity of Dr. Franklin; I agree with Lord Shelburne that Mr. Fox's precipitation on the head of Independence has probably forwarded this additional stumbling block. I am sorry to say it but from the beginning of the American troubles to the retreat of Mr. Fox this Country has not taken any but precipitate steps, whilst caution and system have been those of Dr. Franklin which is explanation enough of the cause of the present difference of situation.

Lord Shelburne's language to Count de Grasse has been just what I could have wished.

No thing could be more proper than Lord Shelburne's holding a serious conversation with Mr. St. Pierre for whose conduct is so inimical it would be wrong for him not just to feel that
though

