

Ld. Shelburne

Dec. 7 1782

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Sir

I have the honour to send your Majesty the Letters which I have received this afternoon.

There was an awkward occurrence in the House of Commons yesterday, owing to Mr. Pitt's explanation of the Article which regards the Independence. He stated it

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as depending on a Peace with France, the
but irrevocable whenever that event
should happen, tho' the present Tre-
-ty should prove abortive. Mr. Fox
affected to consider this as a con-
-ception to the Opinion, which de-
-termin'd his resignation. It cre-
-ated some uneasiness. but will
not I hope be attended with any
bad consequence, as the Treaty
with France is so nearly con-
-cluded, and Mr. Pitt undertakes,
that Mr. Fox shall not carry thro'

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From the deception. In this case the best
must be made of it in the House
of Lords.

I have the honour to be
with the highest Respect

Your Majesty's
most Obedient
Subject

Berkley Square

7th Decr 1702

11 o'clock P. M.

The Honour

Windsor
Dec. 8. 1792. ^{on} p. 10. d. 20

By Lord Shelburne's Account it very clearly appears that Mr. Pitt on Friday stated the Article of Independence as irrevocable though the Treaty should prove abortive, this undoubtedly was a mistake, for the Independence is there to be granted for Peace. I have always thought it best and wisest if a mistake is made openly to avow it, and therefore Mr. Pitt ought if his words have been understood to bear so strong a meaning to say it is no wonder that so young a Man should have made a slip; this would do him honour. I think at all events it is highly material that Lord Shelburne should not by any language in the House of Lords appear to change his conduct, but the blame fall where it may, I do not wish he should appear but in a dignified light, which his Station in my Service requires, and which can only be maintained by his conduct in the whole Negotiation of Peace being great which would not be the case if Mr. Fox could prove that Independence was granted otherwise than as the price of Peace; besides Mr. Dwyer's Letter shews farther demands are to come from Franklin which must the more make us stick to this Article

Lord Shelburne
Puddle Square Dec. 7. 1792. 11. 8. P.M.
Windsor Dec. 8. 1792. 2. 10. P.M.