

Draft to the D. of Grafton
Lucens House Dec. 11. 1767
^m
45 p. 5. P. M.

pub. Fentone

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Duke of Grafton, Your letter gives Me reason to flatter
Myself that the Negotiation will come to maturity as
Lord Weymouth has not broke off the this Day, but waits
the event of dividing the Southern Department, to see
whether that will not occasion a Resignation, as I am
thoroughly convinced the measure will have that effect,
& form this opinion from Lord Shelburne's having
particularly of late seized every opportunity of declaring
that America is a Department of little business; if
you will therefore this Evening open to him that the
dividing his Department may become expedient
by way of strengthening Administration, besides the
impossibility that the American branch can be
duely expedited whilst liable to be interrupted
by the calls of other business, this will probably
effect what I think would be advantageous to the
Country. I shall be anxious to know what has pass'd.

[Faint, illegible handwritten text in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]