

H.M. to Duke of Grafton

pub. Fortescue

733

Queens House Jan 22. 1768. 5^m p. 1/4. P.M.

Duke of Grafton, the enclosed is the draft to Ad. Chatham on which I desire to have your opinion & the suggestion of any alterations that may occur to you.

I saw Sir G. Macartney who gave me the same extraordinary reason for declining he had done yesterday to you, but on my scouting the idea he owned having received a letter from Mon^r. Pannin to urge him to resign the Commission, as the Empress had been so pressed by the ~~Relations~~ of the Maid of Honour that she would give a public refusal of him if he did not take this hint, that Chernichev should instantly set out to shew the desire of the Empress for one of like Rank being nominated to her Court; I told him I thought ^{highly} wrong in giving the idle reason he had, when he could give so weighty a one, & order'd him to hint the truth to you & to Ad. Weymouth, tho' begging both of you not to make this public as it would be opening an affair that had better be obliterated.

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