

Ld. North to ? Ld. Dartmouth

Geo/MAIN/

Aug. 10 1772

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Bushy Park Aug 10.

My dear Sir.

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I received the inclosed papers yesterday but could not send them to you before this morning. The Printer is strongly impeded with the propriety & even necessity of the proposed alterations in the American department. With all the deference I have, & ought to have to his judgement, I own that I do not perceive the great inconveniencies of the present system, & believe that the proposed regulations themselves will be found liable to some difficulties, & require future amendment as much as the plan

which is now to be corrected. I remember, however, that during the alarms of an approaching war the H. was much molested by the difficulties which were started by the Secretary of the Southern Department about the interference of the American Secretary in the foreign & military business arising in North America & the West Indies. There certainly was a little awkwardness in the manner of conducting that business, & some transactions were obliged to pass through two hands instead of one; but I always suspected that the Southern Office aggravated every inconvenience beyond its first magnitude in hopes of recovering the Patronage & emoluments which had been lost by it, when the Office

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of Secretary of State for America was created. I suppose His Maj: has often heard a repetition of the same complaints & expects to put an end to them by the proposed regulations. I do not know whether they will appear to you a detriment or new improvement to your Office, be so good as to consider them, & to let me know if you have any or what objections to them. As for the Southern Department who have made these complaints they, I believe, will be hardly satisfied with them. They will find that they have shot at a pigeon, & killed

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a crow. I shall be in Town on
Wednesday next night, & shall be glad
to hear your sentiments upon these
papers before I go into the Closet.

I am, My dear Lord,

most affec^tedly
yours

Wm. A.

P.S. I have opened your letter to tell you that
we shall be very happy in your thrd & Company
- my son