

A. C. to the Holderness

Dec. 21 1775

16043

Lord Holderness, It is difficult in a few lines to convey the substance of a conversation that lasted above two hours, but it is the less material as you know very exactly the grounds on which Mr. Smelt desires to retire, but I have so far gained upon him as to obtain his promise of remaining two years longer, provided he can be the instrument of bringing the different Persons employed under your Auspices in the Education of my two Eldest Sons to understand each other well, and to have no other object but the inculcating those principles which alone can render those boys Useful, respectable and happy Men. Indeed a want of cordiality and its natural consequence the drawing different ways must eradicate in my Sons the very failings you and I have but too often thought them too much inclined to and if not in this early age destroyed must be the cause of destroying those sentiments which alone can render

renders them Great Characters. Thus

His language has given me some hopes that he may when fully instructed by you be very serviceable in preparing the Bishop and any other part of the Establishment for what you may think proper at present to settle at least he will honestly report to you how matters really are, and enable you then to form an opinion whether things can be brought again into due order.

As to receiving any stipend, Employment, or Honour when he retires he absolutely declines and adds he cannot now go on, but on a certainty that it is understood when that time comes that he is not to be press'd to change that which he has determin'd he was as inflexible as to accepting any house in Town or Country for finding one.

Queen's House
Dec. 21st 1715