

Draft to E. of Shelburne
Lucas House Dec. 5. 1742. 12 p. 7. 1/2

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Whether the absence of the Duke of Richmond last night at the reading
of the speech at St. Helburn's was purposely or accidental, nothing
that he said in the Closet yesterday can authorise my hazarding an
opinion. Indeed he painted in the strongest colours the whole negotiation
of Mr. Brouard, as I seem'd to think that unless Mr. Shelburne had some
secret views on the Duke could not fathom. He could not account for
the not having long changed our American Negotiator when every other
Member of the Cabinet had long seen he pleas'd only the Cause of
America not of Britain; he reprobat'd the grants of Fishing to that
Country, and mad use of the strongest Sophistry, that his sole view
in yielding to America had been to be the better able to oppose
against France and Spain, to which a very obvious answer lies
that trinitity once shown others will take advantage of it. He
blam'd the Peace with France in the strongest thought some
equivalent should have been obtained for giving up the Company
at Darkirk; he roundly asserted that he did not think any
thing could have been a compensation for Gibraltar which he
term'd the brightest Jewel of the Crown; but that Guadalupe
was nothing. that he had no private View by his Speech that
he is inclin'd to the present Administration that he had shewn
it by consenting to be in a very secondary situation when he
might have claim'd the first. As I did not think it right to heat the
Coadjutors at present I seem'd to acquiesce in opinion being the only cause of
his dissent.

Ed. Sheppards was left full but seemed to insinuate that if when the
Emperour returned the terms of Peace were not greatly improved
and if Gibraltar did not remain in our hands, he should resign
and by what he dropped he seemed to insinuate the D. of Richmond
as taking the same line; he expressly added he should
keep his dependants to himself till then; but I am clear the
D. of Richmond dropped nothing that bore that interpretation
to me.