

Should follow
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Draft to E. of Shelburne
Lucas House Dec. 11. 1792 on p. 10. l. 1/2

5101

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on p. 10. l. 1/2

When Lord Shelburne's note arrived I had not heard from Lord Grantham that Mr. de Mevres's answer was returned and as it referred to the propositions he had brought, I was under a difficulty to answer from want of precisely knowing them; but for that I have just received one from Lord Grantham begging to have a Cabinet Meeting this morning, and stating

the two Propositions
1st St. Lucia and Guadalupe for Gibraltar but that as this will entirely render Martinico useless to France some equivalent must be found for that Island either in the East or West Indies and Martinico be added to our Possessions
2^d Gibraltar to remain in our hands but Spain be satisfied by some other acquisition.

I should vastly prefer the first Proposition if I could see any equivalent for Martinico in the West Indies that we could offer France, to give her farther footing in the East Indies I should think big with mischief the two Floridas a loss occur to me, or let France and Spain settle that to their own convenience.

As to the second I would prefer if Gibraltar is kept that Spain should have the two Japonias, but would wish if possible to be rid of Gibraltar, and to have as much possession in the West

West Indies as possible; for it has been my purpose ⁱⁿ Spain
Peace has been on the Carpet to get rid of ^{the} ideal advantages
for those that by a good Administration may prove solid ones
to this Country. Minorca I should not willingly give up, ^{because} as ~~that~~
~~if Port Leno had~~ ^{if} made "free Port" it might draw again into our hands
the Mediterranean Trade.

One unpleasant addition to the the great difficulties which
arise from these Propositions is the enabling the S^r of Richmond
Grafton, Lds. Camden, Shippel and Gen. Conway to fight the whole
Peace over again, and to form fresh Cabals; I also dread that
delays will give time for France to receive Accounts from the
East Indies which cannot but add to her demands.

This letter is less explicit than I wish to be but the difficulties
increase so much, which ever way we turn that I think it
necessary to conclude in the just adding that I think Peace
every way necessary to this Country, and that I shall not think
it ^{complaint} if you do not get rid of Gibraltar but that I ^{am} ~~am~~
not ready to chalk out any thing fresh at so sudden and
sudden rather unexpected propositions.