Ld. Shelburne

Dec. 14 1782

5107

14

Sir

I should not think it worth troubling Your Majesty with an account of what pass'd in the House of Lords yesterday, if I had not had a conversation with Monsr. De Reyneval, of which it may be satisfactory to Your Majesty to be apprix'd.

Nothing passed in the Lords except conversation, in consequence of a set of questions, which Lord Sidwilliams had upon paper to put to me, contrary to all order or precedent. He was supported by Lord Derby and Lord Townsend. The Duke of Richmond took a very distinct part, in support of the order of the House, and of Your Majesty's present Administration. This led to some explanations, which I should think make it impossible for much cordiality to remain between that party and his Grace.

Ld. Shelburne

Dec. 14 1782

5107(2)

I have great satisfaction in ac-
-quainting Your Majesty, that M.
Monsr. De Reyneval is not fundamen-
tally deceiv'd, or the Comte De Ver-
-gennes disgrac'd. The Peace is still
at Your Majesty's command. He
acknowledges the last offer to lay
the foundation of not only an ho-
-nourable but frucheuse negotia-
-tion. He is most earnest, that
the Intermediate Time should be
employ'd in finding some equiva-
-lent or fresh arrangement, that
might satisfye us, in case the

Spanish Obstinacy regarding Gi-
-braltar should still prove invinci-
-ble, for he quoted so many
passages from Monsr De Vergennes
private Letter, and mention'd un-
-necessarily so many circumstan-
-ces, that I have not myself the
least Doubt, that they are perfect-
-ly sincere in wishing Spain to
close on any terms, and that the
exchange of Guadaloupe for
the Spanish part of St Domingo
is not an object of their's, or
at least a very secondary one-

For H.M.'s reply See over.

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He avow'd the seperation of North America to be their principal Object, and that they consider'd every thing else comme des Drogues, He consider'd I found the Independency as entirely depending on the present Negotiation, and the Debates about it as ridiculous. He acknowledg'd that Monsr. De Vergennes was astonish'd at the negotiation being so much advanced without their knowledge, as well as at the Articles, of which Monsr. De Vergennes has sent him

a copy. He said they could not enter into our conduct about the Fishery, and still less into our giving the back Lands, which were the sole occasion of the War of 1755. Upon the whole they seem discontented with the conduct of the Americans, but determined to put the best face upon what has passed.

I am to ask Your Majesty's pardon for so long a detail, and likewise for omitting to take Your Majesty's commands upon the

For H.M.'s reply See over.

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subject of the Civil List conversations as stated by Mr. Gilbert.

I have the honour to be with the highest Respect

Your Majesty's

Duty full Subject

Shelburne

Berkley Square
14th Decr. 1782
9 o'clock A.M.

The whole conduct of the Lords that chose to be troublesome yesterday shewed more spleen than sense, and gave an opportunity of registering sentiments that cannot fail of being advantageous to the state.

The language of Mr. de Grey reveal makes me flatter myself that Peace is not in so desperate a situation as I imagined.

I shall bring the Papers relt. Shelburne sent me concerning the compensations on the Civil List as stated by Mr. Gilbert on Monday that they may be finally settled.

Windsor
Dec. 14th 1782 m/20 p.t. 7. P.M.

E. of Shelburne
Berkley square Dec. 14. 1782. 9. H.
My Lord
Windsor Dec. 14. 1782. 20. m.