

Draft to the E. of Holderness  
Lucens House March 24<sup>th</sup> 1771.

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Lord Holderness, Though your account of Doctor Saurd's health had  
in some degree prepared me for his declining, yet the great character  
he bears makes me thoroughly lament; <sup>if</sup> the Archbishop of York's conduct  
in wishing Mr. Jackson should be preferred to Mr. Courtney, is a fresh proof  
that he is not to be biased by private feelings; if their abilities are equal  
<sup>on reflection,</sup> I should prefer the former from his not having taken orders, so that he  
can at any time walk or ride with my sons if Mr. Smelt should be  
confined by his cholicks, and yet as he means one day or other to enter  
into the Church, he can be hereafter easily provided; <sup>for</sup> another little  
advantage that would arise, is ~~that~~ my sons having frequently seen  
him at Lady Charlotte Finch's and <sup>there being</sup> rather fond of him, which at  
first setting out might be advantageous; but I ~~should~~ think it  
best not to sound him untill Mr. Smelt's arrival, as he <sup>might chuse</sup> ~~cannot~~  
<sup>to consult</sup> ~~it might be better to acquaint her~~ ~~with~~ ~~her~~ ~~first~~ ~~of~~ ~~my~~ ~~intention~~ ~~of~~ ~~placing~~ ~~my~~ ~~sons~~ ~~in~~  
~~your~~ ~~hands,~~ ~~previous~~ ~~to~~ ~~her~~ ~~hearing~~ ~~it~~ ~~from~~ ~~others.~~  
George J.

1738

*[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting on lined paper]*