

H. K. to H. North

Jan. 31 1778

2774

Lord North, The letter I received from you the last evening was of so serious a nature, that you cannot be surprised, that I chose to defer answering it until this day.

I should have been greatly hurt at the inclination expressed by you to retire, had I not known that however you may now and then be inclined to despond, yet that you have too much personal affection for me, and sense of honour, to allow such a thought to take any hold on your mind.

You must feel how very entirely I have confided in you since you have presided at the Treasury, how fairly you have been supported by your colleagues in the Administration, how sincerely you are loved and admired by the House of Commons, and how universally esteemed by the Public; indeed these reflections must rouse your mind and enable you to withstand situations still more embarrassing than the present.

You will remember that before the receipt I strongly advised you not to bind yourself to bring forward a proposition for restoring tranquility to North America, not from any absurd ideas of unconditional submission my mind never harboured; but from perceiving that whatever

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can be proposed, will be liable, not to bring America back to a sense of attachment to the Mother Country, yet to dispirit this Country, which has in the most handsome manner cheerfully carried on the contest, and therefore has a right to have the struggle continued, untill convinced that it is in vain.

Perhaps this is the minute of all others that You ought to be the least in a hurry to produce any plan of that kind; for every letter from France adds to the appearance of a speedy declaration of War; should that event happen, it might perhaps be wise to strengthen the Forces in Canada, the Floridas, and Nova Scotia, withdraw the rest from North America and without loss of time employ them in attacking New Orleans, and the French and Spanish West India possessions. Success in those parts would repay us the great expences incurred; we must at the same time continue destroying the Trade and Ports of the rebellious Colonies, and thus soon bring both contests to

Lord North, The letter I received from You the last Evening, was of so serious a nature, that You cannot be surpris'd that I chose to defer answering it untill this day. I should have been greatly hurt at the inclination expressed by You to retire, had I not known that however You may now and then be inclin'd to despond, yet that You have too much ^{personal} affection for Me, and sense of honour, to allow such a thought to take any hold on Your mind. You must feel how very entirely I have confid'd in You since You have ^{provid'd} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~under~~ ^{under} ~~of~~ ^{of} the Treasury, how fairly ^{you have been} supported by Your Colleagues in the Administration how sincerely lov'd ^{and admir'd} ~~and admir'd~~ by the House of Commons, and ^{has} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~deep~~ ^{deep} ~~ly~~ ^{ly} esteem'd by the Public, these reflections ^{might} ~~ought~~ ^{ought} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~excite~~ ^{excite} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~mind~~ ^{mind} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~enable~~ ^{enable} ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~withstand~~ ^{withstand} ~~situations~~ ^{situations} still more embarrassing than the present.

You will remember that I ^{strongly} ~~strongly~~ ^{strongly} ~~advised~~ ^{advised} You not to ^{restoring} ~~bring~~ ^{bring} ~~forward~~ ^{forward} ~~a~~ ^a ~~proposition~~ ^{proposition} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~restoring~~ ^{restoring} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~tranquillity~~ ^{tranquillity} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~North~~ ^{North} ~~America~~ ^{America}, ^{not} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~absurd~~ ^{absurd} ~~ideas~~ ^{ideas} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~any~~ ^{any}

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of unconditional submission, ^{whatsoever} any mind never ^{has} ~~imagined~~; but from foreseeing that ~~nothing~~ can be proposed ~~that will~~ ^{be} ~~the~~ ^{hables}, ~~which~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ to bring America back to a sense of attachment to the Mother Country, ^{but} yet to dissatisfy this Country, which has in the most handsome manner cheerfully carried on the contest, and therefore has a right to have the struggle continued, ^{until} ~~it is~~ ^{convinc'd} ~~that it is~~ ^{in vain.}

~~nothing can be obtained before the ship is yielded.~~

Perhaps this is the minute of all others that you ought to be the least in a hurry to produce any plan of that kind; for every letter from France adds to the appearance of a speedy declaration of War; should that happen, it might perhaps be wise to strengthen the ^{Fortes in Canada} ~~possessions~~ of the Floridas and Nova Scotia, withdraw the rest of our North American and without loss of time employ them in attacking New Orleans, and the French and Spanish West India Islands. ^{in these parts would require} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~great~~ ^{the} ~~expenses~~ ^{expenses} incurred, we ^{must} ~~continue~~ ^{at the same time} ~~struggling~~ ^{struggling} the French and

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Parts of the rebellious Colonies, and probably soon bring ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{contest} ~~to~~ ^{to} a conclusion, and this Country ^{having} ~~its~~ ^{attention} ~~diverted~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{fresh} ~~object~~, ^{it} ~~is~~ ^{perhaps} ~~a~~ ^{better} ~~temper~~ ^{to} ~~subscribe~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~terms~~ ^{as} ~~an~~ ^{Administration} ~~might~~ ^{think} ~~advisable~~ ^{to} ~~offer~~ ^{to} ~~Spain~~, ^{who} ~~on~~ ^{her} ~~part~~ ^{will} ~~at~~ ^{such} ~~a~~ ^{time}. ~~It~~ ^{will} ~~be~~ ^{more} ~~ready~~ ^{to} ~~treat~~, ^{than} ~~at~~ ^{the} ~~present~~ ^{hour}.

I do not mean by this to reject all ideas of your laying if a Foreign War should not arise this Session a proposition before Parliament, but I trust you will ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~first~~ ^{first} ~~fully~~ ^{fully} ~~before~~ ^{before} the Cabinet, ^{where} ~~where~~ ^{you} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~proposed~~ ^{proposed} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~considered~~ ^{considered}. You will find every Member willing with care and to examine ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{proposition} ~~proposition~~. You will lay the result before me; and when the whole is ^{thoroughly} ~~thoroughly~~ ^{discuss'd} ~~discuss'd~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{House} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~Commons~~ ^{Commons} ~~both~~ ^{both} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~Office~~ ^{Office} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~those~~ ^{those} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~Weight~~ ^{Weight} ~~among~~ ^{among} ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Country~~ ^{Country} ~~Members~~ ^{Members}, that the House may not as on a former occasion from want of previous notice be stagger'd, and persons appear from not understanding the subject before them.

Laura Plowden Jan. 31. 1778. 28. M. 3. 1778

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to a conclusion; and this Country having had its attention diverted to a fresh object, would be in a better temper to subscribe to such terms as Administration might think advisable to offer America, who on her part will at such a time be more ready to treat, than at the present hour.

I do not mean by this to reject all ideas of your laying, if a Foreign War should not arise this session, a proposition before Parliament; but I trust you will first fully state to the Cabinet your ideas, where I am persuaded you will find every Member willing with candour to examine them, after which you will lay the result before me; and when the whole is thoroughly shew'd to the principal Men of business of the House of Commons, both in Office, and those of weight with the Country Members, that the House may not as on a former occasion, from want of previous notice, be staggered and persons oppose from not understanding the subject before them.

Lucas House Jan. 31. 1778
25 1/2 P.M.

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