

No XII.  
Draft to Ld. North  
Queens House Mar. 18. 1783.  
Friday

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Lord North, I received Your letter late the last Evening enclosing the one You had received from the D. of Portland; the clearest manner in which I can answer Yours is by recalling to You what has past; when first I sat to You I desired to place You again at the head of the Treasury, and that You should try to form an Administration on the most extensive basis, from a conviction that no Party could alone conduct the Public Affairs and my uniform wish from the hour I first mounted the Throne, and from which I have never departed; to extinguish all odious party distinctions, and have the assistance of the best and ablest Men the Kingdom might produce. You declined from want of health accepting that situation; I then proposed You should have any other Cabinet Office that might suit You and that You should assist Me in pointing out how an Administration could be formed on such a wide basis, the Treasury being placed in the hands of some Peer not the head of any large Party, whom when the other outlines were stated on Paper to be laid before me for my consideration I should name; You soon wrote that as to the

Duke

Duke of Portland and his friends they would not make part of  
such a Patronage Plan, unless He was nominated to preside at  
the Treasury. After some consideration I on Wednesday last  
authorized you to continue to try to have such a plan formed  
for my inspection, and that if it can be effected, the D. of Portland's  
being at the head of the Treasury shall not be objected to by Me. Your  
letter does not, nor does that from the D. of Portland to you seem to  
recollect that I cannot enter into any detail till you have sent  
Me such a Plan on Paper for my inspection; I certainly shall  
not bind myself by giving any separate Approbation or  
disapprobation to any proposal, till the whole is sent to Me on  
Paper, when I shall coolly judge whether such proposal is  
likely to effect my only object, the removing all dissentions  
and thus forming an Administration that may have weight  
both at home and abroad.

To prevent delays and mistakes, I authorize you to  
communicate this wherever you may think it necessary.