

Lord North

Apr. 3 1772

1295

Lord North was prevented from paying his duty to his Majesty yesterday at Mr James's by business which required his early attendance at the House of Commons & detained him till near five o'clock. He had the honour of his Majesty's commands yesterday evening, & had soon after a meeting of the principal Members of Parliament concerning the Dissenters petition. The Gentlemen continued till eleven o'clock in Downing Street, discussing the proper course to be held today. Lord

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1295 (2)

North is sorry to inform his Majesty, that upon the best information that he has received there is not merely a possibility or a probability, but a certainty that he will be beat if he opposes this measure in the House of Commons. The Opposition are all united in favour of it, & one half of the friends of Government will either stay away or vote with the Opposition. The greater number of the gentlemen, who were with North last night strongly dissuaded him from attempting to throw it out in the House of Commons. Those, whose elections principally depend upon Presbyterians, must vote for this petition; those, who have a few

dissenting constituents would avoid voting at all, as they are sure that their dissenting friends would resent it, & that their Church - of England would not thank them. Upon the whole, they look'd upon it as one of those bills, which ought to be thrown out by the House of Peers & not by the Commons, & conceiving that they had given evident proof of their attachment to the Church in two instances during the present Session, think it hard to be pers'd a third time in a case, where their conduct may endanger their own seats, but where the Lords may act with perfect freedom, & without the

least apprehension.

Lord North will not fail to attend his
Majesty at Mr James's this morning, when
he will explain the matter more at
large.

no date

Lord North

~~Leaving this Friday noon.~~