H. H. to Ld. North

May 27 1776

My Dear Lord, My Conversation on Wednesday was addressed to the Man I esteem from an experience of his Worth and attachment of my Person, not as an attention to the first Commissioner of the Treasury, so is this letter.

On that occasion I mentioned the Lord Dartmouth, Ashburham and Bruce as the only persons that occurred to Me in the least from their Characters as fit to succeed Lord Holderness. You said You could not think of any one to add to the list, and concurred with Me in opinion that neither of the two first would be induced to undertake the arduous task; I also mentioned that from principles of honour I could not press Mr. Smelt to continue Sub Governor with any other Governor than Lord Holderness; that Mr. Jackson knowing he was to be removed prior to my receiving any intimation of Lord Holderness's intentions to retire, the Bishop of Chester was the only one of the Establishment concerning whom it was necessary for me to take any decision, that on principle I think the Governor is my representative and as such no one about them must have more hold on them than him, therefore that on the new Appointment of a Governor I must produce a new Preceptor, when to this is added the want of regard of my Sons

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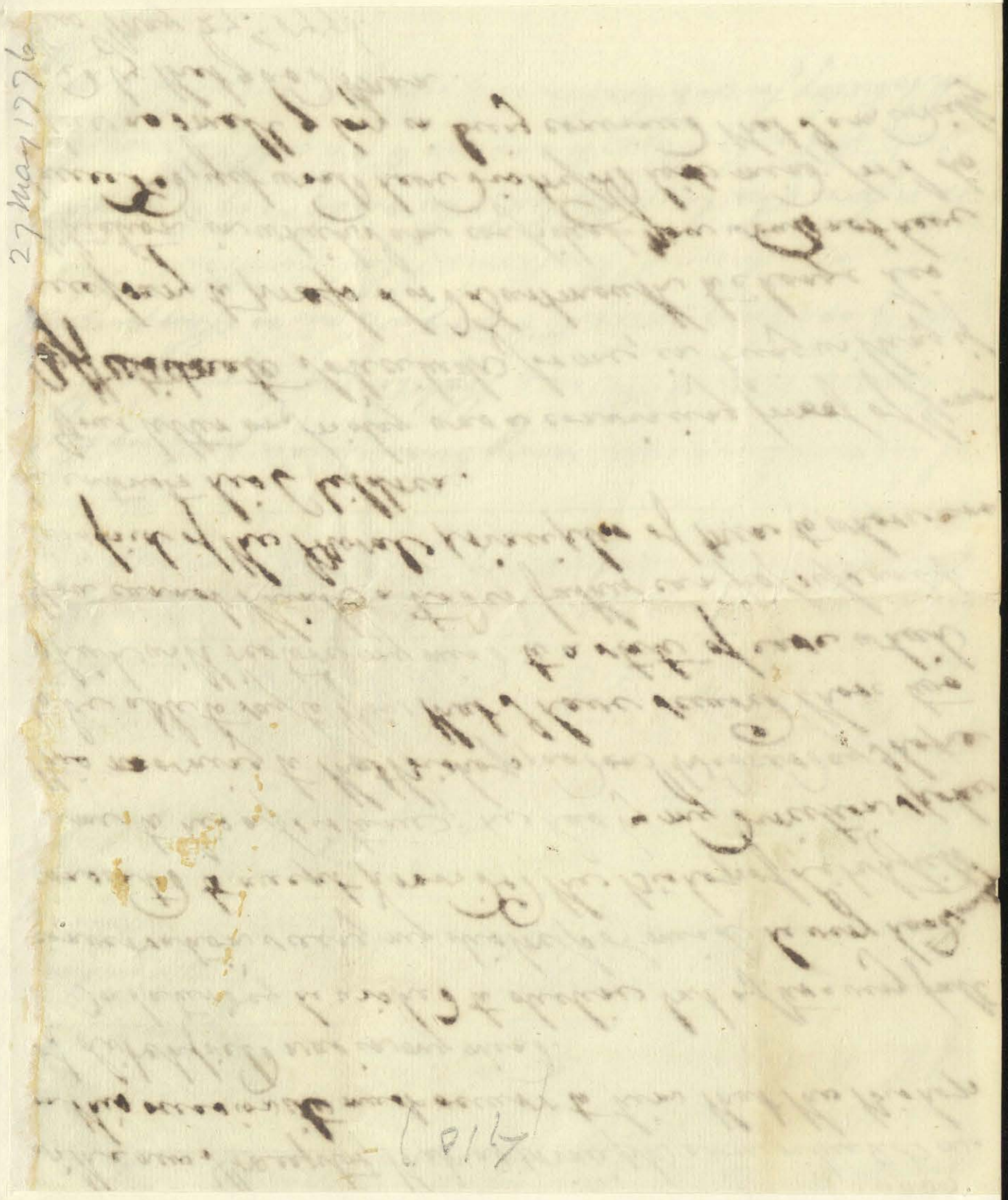
to Lord Holderness has made him resign, though he will put it on his health, they would secretly feel a kind of Victory if the Bishop remained; I therefore yesterday took the painful task of sending for the Bishop of Chester and with kindness and frankness told him, that as Lord Holderness meant to retire I should at the same time appoint a new Preceptor, and gave him naturally the ideas on which I had formed this resolution.

On thursday I saw Lord Brace and used every argument to compell him to step forth to my assistance, told him You had owned that as neither Lord Dartmouth nor Lord Ashburnham could with any probability of success be sounded, that You concurred with my opinion that the purity of his morals and never having been mixed in party made the Choice a respectable one; that he was to consider that party and many private Ties gave me no other persons to fix on but one of the three I had mentioned; that therefore when he reflected he must weigh whether Duty did not oblige to answer to my call; I gave him till Saturday for consideration only adding if he came it would be with the new Preceptor, that as principle alone actuated me on this occasion it must occurr to him that the Bishop of Litchfield was in my mind.

On Saturday he wished to decline but after a very full conversation seeing my distress of mind he very handsomely consented to accept provided the Bishop of Litchfield came to his assistance; he has by my direction spoke this morning to that Bishop, and on Wednesday I hope to be able to say to You that I have secured those two which will restore my mind to a state of ease which You cannot think a tender father can possess unless satisfied of the Moral principles of men to whose care he entrusts his Children.

Your letter on friday was a convincing proof of Your affectionate solicitude for me, in being willing if necessary to press Lord Dartmouth to change his situation, in which I am confident You would not have succeeded, yet would have distressed his mind; for I do place no small glory in being convinced that I am cordially loved by that good Man.

Kew May 27th 1776.



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