

Lord North

Feb^y 9 1778

2785

Lord North has the honour of
informing his Majesty of a circumstance
which, when he was this morning at
St James's, he forgot to mention. He
finds that Lord Suffolk's earnestness
for the order of the Garter is not
diminished, & that he will consider
himself as much more gratified, if
his Majesty will, in filling the present
three vacancies, nominate him
for one of them, that if he should

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2785 (2)

in consequence of an alteration of the
statutes of the order, be one of a
creation of seven or eight knights.
Ld. North submits to his Majesty
that it is a matter of great conse-
quence in the present moment
to please Ld. Suffolk, as there
is nobody more steady, & resolute,
& active, & more fit to lead the business
of the Crown in the House of Lords.
If His Majesty intends to alter the
statute, that intention may be made

known to the candidates at the time
of the creation of the first three knights,
& may take place soon after.
There happens, at present, to be
no Knight of the Garter of the
name of Howard, which makes
Ld. Suffolk, who has strong feelings upon
the antiquity & dignity of his family,
more eager for this distinction, & more
solicitous as to the manner in which
it may be conferred.

Downing Street 2 P. M. P. M.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in cursive script, possibly a letter or document.]

no date

rd. to Lt. Sappell's command
to be read a K.G.

24 1778

(Lt. Sappell became a
K.G. 3 June 1778)