

H. K. to H. North

Feb 18 1778

2790

See 2787

Lord North, The long letter You received yesterday from the Lord Chancellor was so full of ungrounded suspicion and warmth, that I thought it best not to return it unto You, untill I could learn from Lord Suffolk what had past at the Dinner on Saturday, it was impossible I could see him till late the last Evening on account of the Debate in the House of Lords, and therefore I judged it best to desire him to go and state the affair to You if possible last Night. I totally agree with the second letter I received in the Evening from You that Lord George Germain ought to have wrote his coldly to Sir W. Howe though he convey'd unto him the permission to return home. But it is not too late to remedy this for the Andromeda a new Copper bottomed Ship

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is ordered to be ready to carry to America the result of Your Propositions, it would be highly proper that Lord G. Germain should by this conveyance communicate to the General the idea of changing the Plan of War, which he may very properly attribute to the opinion I have of the General and his having intimated that on the present mode, and with his present force, he could only the next Campaign only maintain what he has now in his possession; but leaving the General a liberty to do what may seem to him most eligible until the Arrival of Sir A. Clinton or some other Successor.

I trust if Lord G. Germain writes to the General agreeably to this Idea that it will cost you very little conversation to remove any suspicions of the Lord Chancellor.

I return Mr. Fox's letter which I think much the clearest I have ever read from that correspondent

2790(2)

The conduct of France seems most strange, War is the object of the young Officers, to avoid the wish of the Ministers, yet he will run so near the Wind that most probably the two Nations will be involved; Spain by the letters of yesterday seems not to expect it at present, for Count Florida Blanca, has notified to Lord Grantham, that M^r. Almodovar is nominated to succeed Prince Masperano, and that he is to leave Madrid by the beginning of next Month.

I am desirous of knowing how this day's Debate is supported; for as to Hambro, I do not in the least fear that they will prove highly honourable to you, and therefore I wish it may be shown that the efficient Men in the House of Commons have zealously supported by their Speeches what will have been proposed from no other view but a wish to serve both the Countries, I cannot conclude without warmly expressing my sentiments that your conduct is always directed by a desire of effecting those laudable, and very compatible objects.

Queens House Feb 18. 1778. p. 9. A. M.

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

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