

A. M. to Lord North

Feb. 24 1778

(1) 2791

Lord North, The letter transmitted to you by Major Ackland enclosing the copy of the one he had wrote to Lord Howe is highly important, as it contains the seeds of great host burnings as well as distress in the rebellious Colonies, which I am persuaded would have greatly encouraged the idea of such a proposition as has been made, had it arriv'd before you had taken that step.

By a letter from the Commissary at Dunkirk I find the French Coast have stop'd the Island in a few four Star Fishermen, which undoubtedly carries the appearance of immediate war; when once you have got the Loan it may behove to talk a little more openly upon these untoward appearances; but till then I think it is not necessary.

Lucas Howe Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 1778 <sup>pm</sup> 1/5 P.M.  
40.

24 Feb 1998