

B. H. to Lord North

2804

Queen's House March 9<sup>th</sup> 1756  
M<sup>rs</sup> J. & A. Ch.

Yesterday Lord Sandwich communicated unto Me a letter he had received from Vice Admiral Mann containing in direct though very civil terms that his <sup>present</sup> state of health disabled him from accepting a command. He should otherwise have felt much honoured. This obliged me to scan a fresh list of Admirals and I was glad to find that one had been that morning with Lord Sandwich to offer in the most ardent manner his services; it is Sir Charles Hardy, who rather than not serve would resign the Government of Greenwich Hospital.

Sir Charles Hardy was second in Command to Lord Anson in the Engagement with Conflans, therefore ostensibly, and Stoppel and Lord Howe out of the case certainly as fit as any one high enough on the list for so considerable a Command; if you concur in this which I own necessity makes me not reject; I propose to insist on his taking an excellent Captain as Admirals Captain and to have Digby and Sir John Ross as Rear Admirals under him, the merit of both of these is admitted by all the Profession, and the advancing the latter

will show there is no mark against those who may have  
shown heat on the late occasion, consequently will  
heal some of the evil that has arisen from this  
unhappy business; my sole object is to destroy the  
kind of meeting in the Corps and I believe the  
mode proposed is what in the present situation  
will be the best that can be proposed, the Captain  
I allude to is Kempenfelt a great friend of Lord  
Clarendon, much respected by all parties and  
one well qualified to heal all little breaches  
I wish you would see Lord Sandwich this day  
and after hearing what he has to say from your opinion  
that the time may be lost, and that I may tomorrow  
give Lord Sandwich some directions for putting  
things into a train