

H. C. to Lord North

? Mar. 15 1778

2818

Lord North On a subject that has for many months
engrossed my thoughts, I cannot have the smallest difficulty
instantly to answer the letter I have just received from you.
My sole wish is to keep you at the head of the Treasury
and as my confidential Minister, that is obtained
I am willing through your Channel to accept any
description of persons that will come forward to
the support of your Administration and as such
do not object to Lord Shelburne or Mr. Barré
who personally perhaps I dislike as much as Doctor
Wilkes, and I cannot give you a stronger proof
of my desire to forward any thing you wish than
taking this unpleasant step.

But I declare in the strongest and most solemn
manner that though I do not object to your addressing
yourself to Lord Chatham yet that you must
acquaint him that I shall never address myself to
him but through you and on a clear explanation that
I do

It is to step forth to support a Administration where
 You are the first Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor
 of the Exchequer; and that I cannot consent to have any
 conversation with him untill the Ministry is form'd
 that if he comes into this I will as he suggests you
 receive him with open Arms. I have the whole
 arrangement to you provided Lord Suffolk
 Lord Weymouth and my two Able Lawyers
 are satisfied as to this situation, but choose
 Ellis for Secretary at War in preference to Barré
 who in that event will get a more lucrative employ
 but will not be so near my Person.

Having said this I will only add to put before
 your eyes my most earnest thoughts, that no advantage
 to this Country nor personal danger can ever make
 me address myself for assistance either to Lord
 Chatham or any other branch of the Opposition
 honestly I would rather lose the Crown I now wear
 than bear the ignominy of proposing it under this
 Character

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Shuckles, I might write 10 volumes if I would state every
feeling of my mind; but I have honestly, fairly, and
affectionately told you the whole of my mind, and
what I will never depart from.

Should Lord Chatham wish to see me before
he gives an answer, I shall most certainly
refuse it. I have had enough of personal
suggerations and neither my dignity nor
feelings will ever let me again submit to it.

Men of his principle and honesty than I
pretend to may look on public measures and
opinions as a game, I always act from
conviction and certainly never can say but
that I am shocked at the baseness of all those
who have used them; therefore cannot go towards
them; if they come to your assistance I will
accept them.

You have now full power to act, but I don't
expect Lord Chatham and his crew will
come to your assistance, but if they do not I trust the
rest of the arrangements will greatly strengthen and will.

give officary to Administration that lowe as Chaneller
Goske as Secretary of State will be efficient men
numbers we have already, Lord Dartmouth as
Steward and Lord Weymouth as Proxy Seal
will please them both, I am certain Lord
Weymouth's conduct on the late vacancy of
the Seal gives him a right to this charge
if agreeable to him.

This seems the better refer
to the Court of 16 March 1748

