

W. H. to Mr. North

Mar. 18 1778

2832

Lord North, A Majority in the House of Lords of 64.
in the House of Commons of 150. and the first payment of
the Loan made, had you the real Duty and Affection
for my Person that I know is deep rooted in your heart
common honesty and that sense of honour which must reside
in the breast of every Man born of a noble family would
oblige you at this hour to stand firmly to the Aid of Him
who thinks he deserves the assistance of every honest Man.
Therefore let Justice have notice that the Great Seal
is ready to be placed in his hands and the Solicitors that
execution will be used to accomplish whatever is his
wish, this done, but not till then, I am open to the
plan of Ministry proposed by you on Sunday, for
I will never retract any propositions I have asserted
to, and the Appearance of Parliament yesterday may
render those you had sounded more plausible than before
they knew what effect the perfidious conduct of France
might have on the minds of Men; but my Dear Sir?
I cannot help saying that I will never agree to the
acceptance

acceptance of the services of any part of the Opposition
but to add strength to your Administration, it is a desire
of going the utmost lengths my feelings will permit,
that to give you ease I consent to what gives me
infinite pain; but any farther even that I consider
cannot make me go, and rather than be shackled by
such desperate Men (if the Nation will not stand by
Me, which I can never suppose) I will rather see any
form of Government introduced into this Island
and lose my Crown than wear it as a disgrace.

I have appointed the House of Lords at two the
day; they for shall be ready to receive the Commons as
thou, you will take care that a proper answer be
prepared to the latter, Lord M^y month has already
had my directions for the one to the Lords.

St James House
March 11th 1778
m
35 p. 4. A. S. K.

Draft to Lord North
Lancaster House March 14th 1778
m
35 p. 4. 2. 1/2

Draft of preceding (2832)

18 March 1778

Lord North, A Majority in the House of Lords of 64.
In the House of Commons of 150. and the first payment
of the Loan made, had you not the real Duty and
affection for my Person that I know is deep rooted in
your heart, common honesty and that sense of honour
which must reside in the breast of every Man born
of a noble family, would oblige you at this hour to
stand forward to the aid of him who thinks he deserves
the assistance of every honest Man. Therefore
let Shute have notice that the great Seal is
ready to be placed in his hands, and let the Solicitor
be satisfied by every exertion to accomplish whatever
is his wish, this done I will still be open to the plans
of Ministry proposed by you on Sunday, for I will
never retract any propositions I have asserted to
and the appearance in Parliament may render them
more plausible than before they knew how the
perfidious steps of France would effect Men's minds,
but my dear Lord I cannot help urging that I will never
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Opposition but to add strength to Your Administration
it is a desire of going the utmost lengths my
feelings will permit that to give you ease I do what
gives me real pain, but any thing further even that
consideration cannot make me go, and rather than
be shackled by those desperate Men if the Nation
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into this Island, and lose my Crown than
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I have appointed the House of Lords at two
this day; therefore shall be ready to receive the
Commons at three; you will take care that
a proper answer is prepared to the letter, but
Weymouth has already by my directions for the
one to the Lords.

Queen's House
March 12th 1778
35 M. G. A. S.