

E. of Sandwich
Admiralty March 18th 1778.

Fortescue 2233

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Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the letter received yesterday from admiral Keppell, together with a draught of an answer which if it meets with your Majesty's approbation, may be sent to ~~you~~ him by this night's post.

The answer is drawn up by my Lord Chancellor, & approved entirely by Lord North & L^d Gower who are the only ones of your Majesty's confidential servants who Lord Sandwich had a possibility

of seeing this morning.

Lord Sandwich is unhappy that it is impossible for him to attend on your Majesty this day as he is confined at the House of Lords, therefore takes this method to ask whether it may not be advisable that Sir Charles Hardy should kiss your Majesty's hand at the levee to morrow on being appointed to the command of the fleet.

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