Lord North
March 23d 1778
Pt 1. PM

the necessity of his quitting his office

2843

Lord North was so much out of order yesterday from the constant vexation of his mind, added to a cold he caught in the House of Commons that he found it necessary to go & pass one night in the country, by which means he miss'd receiving his Majesty's letter till this moment.

Lord North never thought him=
=self in any degree equal to his situation, thus, accordingly in much

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quieter times, repeatedly requested his Majesty's permission to withdraw; his Majesty, by his constant refusal of that permission, has continued Lord North in office till the times are become more arduous & difficult & Lord North consequently more unequal to his situation. Lord North cannot conceive what can induce his Majesty, after so many proofs of Lord North's unfitness for his situation, to determine at all events to keep him at the head of the administration, though the almost certain consequence of his Majesty's resolution will be the ruin of his affairs, & though it can not ward off for a month that arrangement which his Majesty seems to approach.

Lord North has no intention at this moment to quit his place, but, as to performing the duties of it, he has neither time nor capacity to enable him to go through them. He, therefore, most earnestly supplicates the King

to choose a Leader for the administra-
-tion out of some other quarter
if not out of the opposition, as his
affairs must suffer, if so much
dependence is had upon Lord North.
Besides, Events may not improbably
happen, which may render it absolutely
necessary to remove Lord North, it
is therefore highly expedient that his
Majesty should in his own breast
be prepared at all times with a
new arrangement. Lord North
will, by continuing as long as he can

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give at possible time to his Majesty to form the most agreeable plan to himself, but he remains in his former opinion that, unless some very unexpected piece of good fortune happens to Great Britain, that work will be the more difficult, the longer it is delayed.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for his Majesty's inspection two messages one to the H.ᵒ of Lords & the other to the H.ᵒ of Commons.

Monday 1 o'clock