

Lord North

Mar. 25 1778

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Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty a private paper written by Mr Maudslott one of the most zealous friends of Great Britain in her disputes with America. He has been told that that opinion coincides with the sentiments of Mr Sturges, Mr Robinson, & several other friends of government, & is growing daily more general. Indeed, the condition of this country as to its resources is deplorable, & is totally unequal to a war with Spain, France, & America, & will, Lord North fears, be overmatched, if the contest is only with the House of Bourbon, & Russia, although the expense incurred from France is great

He owns that he should be glad if an accommodation with America would prevent for the present moment, a war with France, as he thinks that Great Britain will suffer more in the War, than her Enemies, he does not mean, by defeats, but by an enormous expense, which will ruin her, & will not in any degree be repaid by the most brilliant victories. Great Britain will undo herself while she thinks of punishing France.

Lord North begs leave to trouble his Majesty for a moment on a disagreeable subject but in which he is bound to speak truth. The bad situation of affairs with respect to the appearance of reason he attributes to the obstinate perseverance in the American War.

Ld. North

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There is therefore no probability that  
the present Ministers can continue  
many weeks longer. L<sup>d</sup> Southam will  
at present be entrusted with the prin-  
-cipal offices in the Cabinet, without  
whom it is not to be supposed that  
he can serve his Majesty with effect,  
or Honour. In a short time, the change  
which must take place, will be un-  
-avoidable. L<sup>d</sup> North's confidence of him-  
-self is grounded upon seven years  
experience, & will for ever render it  
fatal to his Majesty to continue him at  
the head of affairs. In short, peace with  
America, & a change in the Ministry

are the only steps which can save this  
country. His Majesty's own sentiments will  
make him prefer the salvation of his  
country to every personal consideration  
imped, as he is, with ~~that~~ affectionate  
regard to his people which become a  
good Prince. Lord North having said  
thus much, is silent, but thus much he  
could not, with peace of mind, refrain  
from saying.

Wednesday

Dr. Mead's paper  
consists of a piece with  
and of a change in the Ministry

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Ad. North  
March 25. 1758