

H. C. to Lord North

Mar. 26 1778

Fortson 2251

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Lord North, The Papers which I received from You Yesterday Morning, and now return, are certainly of too much importance to the Interest and Honour of this Country, for me at so short notice, to venture to give a decisive opinion; indeed I might entirely have declined giving any, without more mature deliberation, and hearing at large the Sentiments of the Cabinet.

The many instances of the inimical conduct of Franklin towards this Country, makes me aware that hatred to this Country is the constant object of his mind, and therefore I trust that fearing the rebellious Colonies may accept the generous offers, I am enabled by Parliament to make them by the Commissioners, now to be sent to America; that his chief aim in what he has thrown out is to prevent this going, or to draw out of Administration an inclination to go further lengths than the Act of Parliament will authorize, that information from him may prevent America from concluding with the Commissioners.

Yet, I think it so desirable to end the War with that Country, to be enabled with the redoubled ardour to avenge the faithless and insolent conduct of France that

that I think it may be proper to keep open the channel
of intercourse with that insidious man.

As to my entering at present into the specifications that
may or may not be admitted, that is impossible until
the whole is drawn up in some degree of method after
another interview of the Agents employed in this
dangerous business; but I will never consent that in any
Treaty that may be concluded a single word be mentioned
concerning Canada, Nova Scotia, or the Floridas, which
are Colonies belonging to this Country, and the more
they are kept unlike the other Colonies the better, for
it is by them we are to keep a certain awe over the
abandoned Colonies, where good Garrisons must be
constantly kept.

Lucas Howse.

March 26th 1778

$\frac{20}{5}$ p. 1. 8. A. M.