

Ld. North

Mar. 29 1778

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Ld North prett to leave the
inclosed papers with his Majesty, when
he was at St James's, & to mention to
him a fact which he thinks he ought
not to conceal, although it relates to a
subject about which his Majesty has
been much troubled already.

Ld Chatham comes down to the
^{House} House, on Tuesday, & will, in all
probability, then make some Declaration
which will unite him with Ld Rocke

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-ingham's friend, from whom he is, at the present moment, totally separated: Lord North continuing in opinion that the first, ^{public} mischance will oblige his Majesty to have recourse to the Opposition; though it might be thought that this circumstance as Lord Chatham may now come into office with a few followers, but if he is driven to make common cause with the rest of the Opposition, a general sweep will be made, & hardly any of his Majesty's servants permitted to remain in office. Almost all the

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friends of Government press Lord North to endeavour to bring in Lord Chatham, & none more than Mr Phipps, who would certainly lose his office, but who is very earnest for a speedy change upon the conviction that it is a hundred to one that the present Ministry will not be able to maintain itself long. Lord North has the fact above mentioned from Mr Phipps.

Understanding that his Majesty's chief objection to inviting Lord Chatham is the fear of his assuming too much authority, Lord North thought it his duty to apprise

His Majesty that what he apprehends from
Lord Clarendon, will, if an arrangement
is delayed, feel much more heavily in
consequence of the very probability of a
sudden change of Government in
a month or two hence.

The Nation does not think ill of the
integrity of the present ministers, but as
the present dangerous state of the country
may with great appearance of reason be
attributed to their perseverance in the
American War; The Nation begins
to be scared, to think but in diffidence
of their judgement.

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