

Ld North

Mar. 30 1778

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Lord North would not have recd to a subject disagreeable to his Majesty, if he had not thought himself obliged in duty to convey to his Majesty the information he had received. Such a report, if true, is certainly of a nature that ought to be communicated to his Majesty.

As to the Question which his Majesty has done Lord North the honour to put to him, His answer to the first is that he believes it may be possible to obtain an acquisition from opposition, but he is afraid that it can not be done on the terms proposed by his Majesty; Lord Chatham with respect to place

his friends in the most respectable offices
& to have a majority in the Cabinet. Lord
Rockingham having many more followers
will expect more.

To the second question he has the honour
to answer. That he knows by experience how
incapable he is to preside at the head of the
government of this country at any time, much
more at this difficult moment, & that he most
earnestly supplicates not to think of continuing
him in such a situation to the almost cer-
tain ruin of his affairs, & of this country. Some
other person must be thought of, to controul
& direct & put vigour into the Departments
of Government, or the nation is undone.

In answer to the third question, Lord North

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will certainly obey his Majesty's commands
by continuing in his present office to the
end of the Session of Parliament. That when-
ever his Majesty will be so good as to
release him, He will endeavour by every
means in his power to promote his Majesty's
affairs in or out of office, in the H. of
Lords or H. of Commons, in short in any
manner that he is able. In his present
situation he would be glad to it, but
really the weight of it is too heavy
for him to bear. He has often in times
of less pressure intended his dismissal
from the same sentiment of his own

insufficiency; If his Majesty had granted
his request, his affairs might, perhaps,
not be in so critical a situation.
What he can do, he will at all times to
show his duty & gratitude to so good a
master, but to undertake, upon the
present system, to carry this country
through this plunge, ~~is not~~ he to undertake
what he is morally certain he has not
talents to perform. as a subject at large
he will contribute what he can to the
public service, & he will cheerfully obey
his Majesty's commands by remaining in
his present office to the end of the Sep

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