

Ld. Geo. Germain to Ld. ? North

2938

(Full Mail APRIL 27: 1798)

My Lord

I have this instant seen the dispatches  
from the Hague which bring so very  
particular and interesting an account  
of the sailing of the Spanish Squadron  
and of the manner of its Equipments  
with Stores Clothing, Seamen &c &c  
~~which~~ <sup>and</sup> convince me that the destini-  
tion of that Fleet must be North  
America, where it will be joined  
by all the Marine Force of the  
Rebellious provinces, and in that  
case will be able to attack  
and destroy our Fleet in those seas



and perhaps themselves either of Halifax  
Philadelphia or Quebec, if some  
immediate step be not taken  
by sending a strong Squadron to  
reinforce Lord Howe, and prevent  
the fatal consequences which  
may follow from the French having  
an assumed superiority at sea  
upon the Coast of North America.  
I never can sufficiently lament the  
not having sent a Fleet to Gibraltar  
to prevent the French Squadron

jumping  
risk of  
Company  
by leave  
duty  
the two  
but have  
that on  
and so  
it either  
I must be  
my words



judging the ~~chance~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~measure~~ the  
 risk of that measure was nothing in  
 comparison of what we may suffer  
 by leaving such a fleet at full  
 liberty to attack us in N. America  
 the West Indies or Newfoundland;  
 but having done all in my power  
 that our fleet may be so employed,  
 and I understand not thinking  
 it either advisable or practicable  
 I must content myself with having given  
 my opinion according to the best of my



