

Lord North

Apr. 30 1778

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Lord North has the honour of
troubing his Majesty with a few lines
upon a subject which Lord Sandwich
mentioned to his Majesty this morning.

The appointment of Admiral Parker
to command the squadron destined to
follow Mr D'Estaing may, in one case, ex-
pedite the sailing of the fleet, that is
in case Admiral Byron's ships, which
is in Plymouth harbour, should not be
able to get out to sea. This difficulty

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may happen, as it is not easy in all winds to sail out of the Harbour of Plymouth.

On the other side, if Admiral Parker upon his arrival at Halifax, finds Admiral Gambier there, he will not be able to order his ship to join the fleet, but must put himself under the command of Admiral Gambier.

The choice to be made is between the certainty of avoiding the possible delay of Admiral Byron's ship, & the probability of having the fleet commanded

by Mr Gambier.

Lord North knows nothing himself of Mr Gambier's character, but he is not a favourite in the Navy.

Mr. Byron would command Mr Gambier, but it is possible that his ship may be retarded.

Lord Sandwich is in doubt whether to send to Admiral Byron, or Admiral Parker, & desired Lord North to take his Majesty's pleasure, but he has been detained at the Treasury Board.

to the this moment, & is oblig'd to
express his Majesty's pleasure
by Letters.

Thursday April 20.

Friday

1778

At Royal Park, Bognor
& Farnham