

H. H. 64d. North. Draft of 2974

May 19 1778

2975

Lord North, I have acquainted ^{the} Lords Suffolk and Weymouth that as soon as the former can attend on me, and is able to appear at a Chapter of the Garter, I shall confer that badge of Honour on them and on Lord North.

When I last Year acquainted You with my intention of conferring the Office of Warden of the Cinque Ports upon You; I flattered myself this fresh mark of my regard would have stimulated You to continue at the head of the Treasury, and I intended therefore to have put it on the foot the late Duke of Dorset held it, but certainly never to have granted it for life; the having been persuaded to answer a particular object, when quite ignorant of public Affairs to grant that Office for life to Lord Holdernesse, is not a reason for my conferring it now in that mode. I daily find the evil of putting ^{having} so many employments out of the power of the Crown, and for the rest of my life will not confer any in that mode, but where constant practice has made it matter of course.

The

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The many marks I have given you of my friendship will convince you that when I decline conferring the Lingua Ports on you but during pleasure, that I will never give this Office but in that mode; if you still persist in retiring from the Treasury, though I feel the detriment it will be to my service; I will confer the Lingua Ports during pleasure with an additional salary to make it equal to the sum received by Lord North's Office, it must be termed an additional salary, that the income may not be increased whenever the Office shall be in other Hands.

Sir Robert Walpole's Pension during life was natural, he had firmly for twenty Years withstood a strong Opposition, the Crown deserted him, and his Enemies came into Office, no other mode therefore would have done, Mr. Grenville got the reversion of the Fellowship before he came into the Treasury as a compensation for his resigning his protraction to the Speakers Chair. Lord North's pension for life was a shameful bargain of the present Plot of the House of Commons to get the great Seal for Lord Camden.

^{2975 (2)}
I shall not object in addition to the Lingua Ports during pleasure, to grant to your family a reversion of a Fellowship of the Exchequer, but should much prefer your remaining at the head of the Treasury, where many Opportunities will of course arise by which I may benefit your family without fixing a bad precedent.

I cannot conclude without expressing some surprise that after my numerous letters you have not concluded the Appointment of Mr. Thurlow, you want to retire and yet will not take the first step towards enabling me to arrange matters, that I may acquiesce in your request.
New May 19. 1778.

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Sept 15 1811. *[illegible]*
Wm. Douglass
N. 25.