H. He. bhd. Notts

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m p. P.R.

It has ever been a certain position with Me that firmness is the Characteristick of an Englishman, that consequently when a Minister will shew a resolution boldly to advance that He will meet with support, consequently Lord North's report that the Gentlemen who attended the meeting in Downing Street last night will cordially support during the next Session is what I expected, and if on the opening of the Session the Speech from the Throne is penned with firmness, and shews no other end is sought but benevolence to all the branches provided the Empire is kept Entire, and invites all who will cordially unite in that point and in a resolution to withstand the natural Enemies of the Country, and the Ministers in their Speeches shew that they will never consent to the Independency of America and that the assistance of every man will be accepted on that ground I am certain the cry will be strong in their favour.

I should have concluded here, had not the letter contained the following expression that Lord North is conscious and certain that he neither has the Authority nor the Abilities requisite for the conduct of Affairs at this time; the word authority puzzles

me, for from the hour of Lord North's so handsomely devoting himself on the retreat of the D. of Grafton, I have never had a political thought which I have not communicated unto him, have accepted of persons highly disagreable to me, because he thought they would be of advantage to his conducting public Affairs, and have yielded to measures my own opinion did not quite approve; therefore I must desire to have an explanation in writing on what is meant to be conveyed by that word, as also that a change might be made to the benefit of my service without having recourse to the Opposition, this is quite a new thought, and till Lord North explains what that means, the idea is quite incomprehensible to me.

If Lord North can see with the same degree of enthusiasm I do, the beauty, excellence, and perfection of the British Constitution as by Law Established, and consider that if any one branch of the Empire is alowed to cast off its dependency that the others will infalably follow the Example, that consequently though an arduous struggle that is worth going through any difficulty to preserve to latest Posterity what the Wisdom of our Ancestors have ~~carefully~~ transmitted

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to us; he will not allow despondency to find a place in his breast, but resolve not merely out of Duty to fill his post, but will resolve with Vigour to meet every obstacle that may arise he shall meet with most cordial Support from me, but the times require Vigour or the State will be ruined.