

Lord North  
Buckingham Palace Nov. 16. 1776.

Explains some expressions  
of his former Note, and

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Lord North, in obedience to his Majesty's command, has the honour of explaining some expressions in the last note which he wrote to his Majesty.

By the expression "of his being conscious that he had not the authority requisite for the conduct of affairs at that time" He meant only that he has not that authority of character, that ascendancy which must procure respect & deference to his opinions; This he can never have, as it can only be acquired by a degree of abilities much superior to

his, & yet his Majesty will remember how  
important Lord North stated in a former letter  
such a character to be for the direction of  
the public councils at such a time as this.

With respect to the other expressions to  
which his Majesty does give the honour to allude,  
all that he meant to convey was that there are  
among his Majesty's confidential servants  
men who are much better qualified to preside  
in his councils than Lord North. This is  
his opinion of almost all of them, but the  
person best qualified for that station now  
in the cabinet appears to him to be Lord  
Suffolk.

Lord North is much concern'd to learn that

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Bushy Park Nov. 16. 1776.

Explains some expressions  
of his former Note, and  
apologues for himself.

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he has never recommended to his Majesty  
persons, whom his Majesty disapprov'd, & whom  
it was disagreeable to him to prefer, but  
he assures his Majesty, that he never recom-  
-ended a single person for preferment, to please  
himself or to answer any view of his own,  
but that in every instance he was actuated by  
his wish to promote his Majesty's service.

If his Majesty has yielded to measures  
proposed by Lord North contrary to his  
Majesty's <sup>own</sup> opinion, it is, Lord North fears,  
an additional proof of Lord North's un-  
-willingness for his present station, but, he hopes,  
that his Majesty does not suppose that he

intends to run away from it, till he has his  
Majesty's permission. Lord North doubts not  
that many persons hold bolder language to his  
Majesty than he does, & represent in strong terms  
Lord North's want of firmness, but it has so  
happened, that nobody has gone through so many  
struggles as Lord North has, & that bolder coun-  
sellors have retired in easier times; Lord North  
embarked in the Ministry by his Majesty's command.  
By the same gracious command, he has continued  
ten years in a most troublesome situation,  
against his inclination, & without a view  
of bettering himself in the least degree either  
in point of honour or of fortune; While he

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remains under the same much sever'd  
imprisonment, He will serve his Majesty  
with all the firmness & resolution he is  
master of; But he must declare that  
he finds his spirits, strength, memory, judge-  
-ment, & abilities severely & considerably im-  
-paired, & he will never be guilty of so  
foul a crime as to conceal from his  
Majesty truths so important to his  
service. If in this Session, as in the last,  
he should stand alone, & unsupported by  
those, who complain of his want of firmness,  
He will endeavour, to the best of his power

to do his duty. In this subject he will  
leave his Majesty no more, but will  
leave it entirely to his Majesty to determine  
what is best for the Public good.

Bushy Park. Nov: 16. 1770.