

V. Ad.
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Ad.
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After waiting about an hour Lord Sandwich arrived;
I told him it would ill become me to receive His
Majesty after his having been gracious by pleased to
entertain so high an Opinion of me; that I had often
told his Lordship that few Men knew themselves but that
I knew myself most thoroughly and that I was such
equal to so Arduous a Task, that I well knew the honour
attending the Command of the Grand Fleet and the
emoluments likely to arise from it, and that I would
fairly confess to his Lordship that for all that of my
rank my fortune was but small, to which I concluded
he might answer my wants were few, that the ~~great~~
~~object of my life~~ the Service of my King and Country
was the greatest object of my life myself the least, that
no man would go further to serve both but he would
be such a load on my shoulders that I never should have
a moments rest, that I was of the most anxious disposition
and that I was certain it would kill me in a fortnight,
that I had already seen, what if I had been General Man-
chef, would have made me run Mad. He said many
times was in arguments, amongst the rest that I should
sacrifice a little for the good of my Country; I answered

I had been doing so all my life ever since I had been in
the Service, I was ready to do so still at the risk of my
life but they could not expect I was to turn my own
entrails out for them, that the Task was so weighty that
the very Conversation with his Lordship on the Subject,
put me in a fever and that I really then felt as if I was
going to be shot at, I therefore left him to Judge how
could well some my Country in such a state of
eternall anxiety, that I knew what it was to suffer
in that state, and ^{had} already sacrificed so much that
I would not again suffer ^{the like} ~~so much~~ for the whole
Kingdom, that it was an any opinion more than they had
a right to expect, that the hazard of my life against
their enmity was at their service, that so far I had often
sacrific'd, and was ready to do it, again. He said it was
a different thing to a Command a board and for the first time
seem'd to feel the difficulty's I had struggled with, and
as soon as of this assistance, I told him we were in a
very relax'd state, that in every department we seem'd to
be a stee, a fleet sally hand and in want of men that
I knew not when we could get sea, that there were surely
several good Men, several that had been good but turn'd old and
Children and several commanding ships of high Rank that
I look'd upon as Blanks.

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I desired his Lordship would permit me to offer an
 opinion and that was to look to his King and Country
 and to bring the Man forth who could serve it best, to forget
 all party and what had pass'd and to give the command to
 Admiral Ruffel, that I had long serv'd with him and that
 there never was a No between us; that I long'd much to serve
 with him again knowing his Naval abilities, that they were
 great, and his decisions on the most important occasions
 quick and clear, that I fear'd this subject was by no
 means agreeable to him but that it was the duty of a
 Man that had nothing so much at heart as his King
 and Country to give him ~~my opinion~~ this information

[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

? date

March 1779

20th. Barrington