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3373 Kew June 11th 1779 $\frac{m}{25}$ p. 10. A.M.

Though I shall return this day unto Lord North the Box containing the voluminous papers He delivered yesterday unto me, yet I do not chuse to delay untill Noon returning the paper that contains the supposed purport of the Address to be moved this day by Sr W. Meredith as Lord North may wish to examine It this forenoon and as the Note he sent unto me the last afternoon mentions his not having read the Paper delivered by Mr Eden ~~delivered~~ unto Him on that and other matter of an important nature.

The object of Sr W. Meredith pretend to be the desire of peace with America. That of Mr Eden is to be employed as a private Negociator with Franklin to effect peace with America — It is therefore easy to blend my thoughts on both Ideas - Indeed I rather wish to convey my sentiments to Lord North on so very serious a Subject on paper, as it will enable Him at any time to recur to this when he wants to know my ideas on the Subject.

I should think it the greatest instance, among the many I have met with, of ingratitude and injustice, if it could be supposed that any man in my Dominions more ardently desired the restoration of Peace and Solid happiness in every part of this Empire than I do; there is no personal Sacrifice I could not readily yield for so desirable an Object; But at the same time, no inclination to get out

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of the present difficulties which certainly keep my mind very far from a State of ease, can incline me to enter into what I look upon as the destruction of the Empire. I have heard Lord North frequently drop that the advantages to be gained by this contest could never repay the expence - I own that let any War be ever so successful if persons will sit down and weigh the Expences, they will find, as in the last, that it hath impoverish'd the State, enriched Individuals and perhaps raised the Name only, of the Conquerors - But this is only weighing such Events in the Scale of a Tradesman behind his Counter; It is necessary for those in the Station it hath pleased Divine Providence to place me to weigh whether expences tho' very great are not sometimes necessary to prevent what might be more ruinous to a Country than the loss of money. - The present Contest with America I can not help seeing as the most serious in which any Country was ever engaged - It contains such a train of consequences that they must be examined to feel Its real weight - Whether the laying a Tax was deserving all the Evils that have arisen from It, I should suppose No Man could allledge that, without being thought more fit for Bedlam than a Seat in the Senate - But Step by Step the demands of America have risen - Independence is their Object - That certainly is one which every Man not willing to sacrifice every Object to a momentary and inglorious Peace

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must concur with me in thinking that this Country can never submit to; Should America succeed in that, the West Indies must follow then – Not Independence, but must for Its own Interest be dependent on North America – Ireland would soon follow the same plan and be a seperate State. Then this Island would be reduced to Itself and soon would be a poor Island indeed – For reduced in her Trade, Merchants would retire with their Wealth to climates more to their advantage, and Shoals of Manufacturers would leave this Country for the New Empire. These self evident consequences, are not worse than what can arise Should the Almighty permit every event to turn out to our disadvantage; consequently this Country hath but One Sensible, One great line to follow, the being ever ready to make peace when to be obtained without submitting to terms that in their consequence must annihilate this Empire, and with firmness to make every effort to deserve Success. —

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Copy
of Letter to Ld North
New York June 11th 1779. $\frac{m}{25}$ pl. 10. Ad

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