

H. L. to Ld. North

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Here June 27th 1779.
at 2 P.M.

The intelligence transmitted by M^r. Wentworth cannot have much weight when so ill informed as to suppose the Fleet not yet sailed; Sir Geo. Rodney's idea that the Spanish Fleet cannot reach Cape Finisterre under a Voyage of five Weeks is very comfortable and will certainly enable Sir Charles, Gardie's having by that time 38. Ships of the Line which certainly may give a very good account of the Enemy should they amount to 50. Ships of the Line. I shall certainly follow Lord North's Lead in taking the first Opportunity I shall meet with the Sea Lord of Scotland to offer him personally the Lieutenantany. I am certain no Military Man can have insinuated to Lord North the placing another Commander in Portugal instead of Sir John Boscawen such a Measure would be disgracing an amiable Man; it is not by continual removals and changing measures according to every insinuation that I can steer the bark in difficult times, but by honorably supporting those who are zealous in my Service; if the advice had been to send a good General below him to his assistance that might have drawn attention, Boscawen is practical and would have advised

[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting on lined paper]

27 June 1999