

Ld. Sandwich

Fortescue
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Admiralty Sept: 4th 1779

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to
your Majesty the enclosed dispatches, and
tho' there is very little real difference
between the fleets anchoring at S.^t Helens
or Spithead with regard to their
getting to sea, and that the necessaries
will be put on board them much
more conveniently & expeditiously at
the latter place, yet Lord Sandwich
cannot help wishing they had anchored
at S.^t Helens.

L^d. Sandwich saw Sir Hugh Palliser
last night, who came to him to express
his fears lest our fleet should be attacked

at anchor, which, as a sea officer, he says
he is certain would be the most disadvantageous
mode on our side in which the battle
could be fought, & indeed the reasons he
gives for that opinion are very cogent.

If your Majesty thinks that L^d Sandwich's
going to Portsmouth would be of more
use to your service than remaining in
town, he will set out the moment he
receives your commands to that purpose,
if Lord Sandwich goes there he can
enforce any ideas your Majesty may
have with regard to the conduct you
wish may be observed, without committing
your Government by official correspon-
-dence at so critical a time; and at
all events he will be able to collect the
opinions of the principal people in
the fleet, and to report to your Majesty
an exact state of men & things.

This is what is to be said on one side
of this question, on the other side Lord

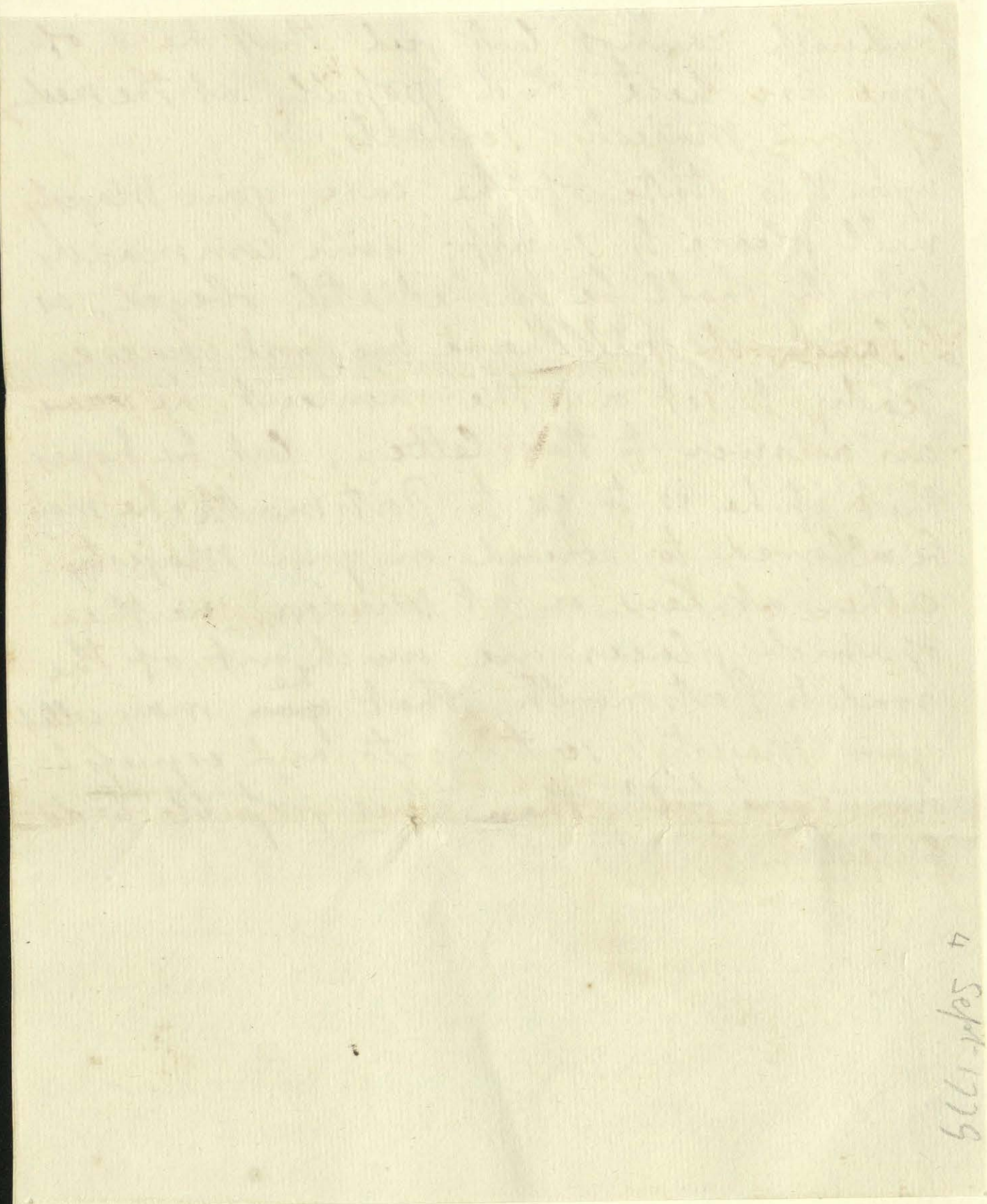
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Ld. Sandwich cannot but feel that he is of
some use here, and possibly at the meeting
of your Majesty's servants.
upon this state of the case your Majesty
will please to signify your commands
which shall be immediately obeyed, as
L^d Sandwich will have his post chaise
ready to set out the moment he receives
an answer to this letter, but he hopes
that if he is to go to Portsmouth he may
be allowed to attend on your Majesty
either at Kew or at Windsor, neither
of which places are much out of the
road to Portsmouth, that ^{he} ~~you~~ may collect
your Majesty's sentiments, and express his
own, more fully than it is possible to do
by letter.



4 Sept 1779