H.M. to Ld. Sandwich
(Draft of last)

Sep. 4 1779

3500

Lord Sandwich, Our Fine Fleet being returned
to Spithead for Refreshments, I do not object to,
provided that is with the greatest expedition;
but the times will not permit its waiting for every
little convenience; therefore I trust on
losing one moment in proceeding with the utmost
dispatch to Portsmouth, and on seeing that no time
is lost in putting on board the several Ships
for enabling Sir Charles Hardy to go and meet the Combined
Fleets of France and Spain; now within the Channel; I am certain he could never
have wished to take so glorious a command without
feeling that ardour which ought to inspire every
Englishman at this hour; therefore I am certain he will
be eager to meet these faithless People.
The spirit of the Fleet gives me the fullest confidence
that with the blessing of the Almighty France
will now severely feel that I have chastised
a wilful and infamous conduct
as it deserves.

Kew Sept 4th 1779

George R.