

Ld. North

Sep. 5 1779

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Lord North had the honour of receiving
his Majesty's command yesterday while
Lord Sandwich was with him, & was
very glad to see that Lord Sandwich had
determined to go to Portsmouth. His
journey thence last year had the best
consequences & Lord North doubts not
but his present journey is more necessary
& will be more important than the
other.

Lord North says that Mr Charles

Hardy's fleet may receive the necessary
supplies the sooner by his being come to
Spithead, but the measure was a very deli-
-cate one, not only from the danger of clamour,
(which is the least consideration) but from
the possibility of being detained there
a long time by contrary winds, & perhaps
of being block'd up by the enemy's fleet.
Lord North hopes that the Court will
not think it necessary to lay in a stock
of refreshments as if he were going on
long voyage, as the point now in

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issue will probably be decided in a fortnight or three weeks at the farthest, as far as the fleets are concerned. If this measure of coming to 1st Helens is really what the Admiral undoubtedly thinks is a measure of dispatch, the Commander deserves to be praised for despising the hasty judgement of the people, & Lord North is glad to hear that the Comptroller of the Navy approves of what has been done. There are other very good naval opinions, who differ. Lord North owns that he shall be glad

to see Sir Charles Hardy once more
clear of Spithead, & in a situation to
avail himself of any favourable oppor-
-tunity of giving battle to the enemy: The
French admiral will hardly venture upon
any serious attack either of Great Britain
or Ireland, while he is in expectation of
an engagement.

Lord North received the inclosed papers
a few days ago, but in the hurry of more
preparing concerns he forgot to send them
to his Majesty.

St. Park Sept: 5. 1779.

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an order is there
Hardy's return to
Spithead in
copy of the