Ld. Sandwich

Fortescue 2767

3510

Portsmouth Sept: 7th 1779

Lord Sandwich has the satisfaction to inform your Majesty that he believes everything will be very properly settled about the five divisions of the fleet; Ld Mulgrave went off early this morning on board the Victory by Lord Sandwich's desire to talk thoroughly to Captain Kempenfelt & Sir Charles Hardy, and it was intended that Ld: S: should see Sir Charles after Ld Mulgrave had made his report of what passed: Lord Mulgrave accordingly did his business very effectually, & brought word to Lord S: that he had found Kempenfelt very communicative & well disposed, and that he readily undertook to convince Sir Charles of the propriety of five

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divisions, in which Ld Mulgrave on conversing with Sir Charles found he had succeeded.

Lord Sandwich attempted to get to Spithead afterwards, but the wind blowing so very hard & the tide coming in, he was obliged to put back; but will see Sir Charles to morrow morning, & has no doubt but that (from Ld Mulgraves report) everything will be arranged without any further difficulty.

Admiral Graves hoisted his flag this morning on board the Formidable.

Lord Sandwich has seen Captain Lafrey, who is made extremely happy by your Majesty's gracious nomination of him to be Commissioner at Antigua; he will resign his ship immediately, and this resignation will help very much in the arrangement for finding a proper ship for Admiral Graves.

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Ld. Sandwich Fortescue 2767

3510 (2)

Lord Sandwich has attended again this morning at the Victualling Office to see that everything went on right about sending off the water & provisions, & he believes he may venture to assure your Majesty that all that business is in its proper train, and that his further interposition about it is unnecessary. it is to be hoped that everything will be on board on Thursday, and Sir Charles Hardy has promised that when ten or twelve of his ships are compleated, they shall drop down to St. Helens, & so in succession till they are all there.

Lord Sandwich has had a long and very close conversation with Captain Johnstone who is violent against the idea of either Lord Howe or Admiral Keppells commanding the fleet.

Mr Keene has been fishing everywhere for

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information whither the admiral is not unequal to the Command of the fleet, & whither Ld Howe would not be well recieved; he has even tried Ld Mulgrave upon this subject, & has been very properly answered. Lord Sandwich believes he may venture to assure your Majesty, that he shall leave everything here in perfect good Manner, as much as it can be, while the remains of admiral Keppells party exists, among Whom it is to be feared that Sir John Rob and Captain Walsingh are too much connected, tho' they both strongly disavow it in words, but not in actions.

Lord Sandwich proposes to come away to morrow evening being assured that his further attendance here can do no service to your Majesty's affairs, but he flatters himself that his journey to Portsmouth has

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not been useless.

Your Majesty will find enclosed the present State of the Victualling of the Fleet.

See 3529 & 3530

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