

H. K. to Lord Sandwich
(Draft)

3518

Windsor Castle Sept 13th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has I suppose pretty near heard the same account
of the West India Islands from G. Adm. Barrington as he made
to me on Friday, therefore cannot be surpris'd it did not
edify me, and I am sorry to add that he has not been
cautious in concealing his sentiments on that subject, so
that it is now well known that ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~opinion~~ ^{opinion} that we ~~are~~ ^{are}
of the Possession in that material part of the world
~~must inevitably fall. I think~~ ^{must inevitably fall. I think}
him a very gallant Officer, I cannot say this is a
mark of ~~his~~ ^{much} Public Virtue, which ought to prevent
dispondency and to stimulate when difficulties arise
an increase ^{of} the alacrity and activity ^{as the sole means of} ~~bringing~~ ^{bringing} Affairs
~~into~~ ^{into} a better posture of Affairs

No one is more convinc'd than myself of the unexpect'd
magnitude of the ~~loss~~ ^{loss} ~~collected~~ ^{collected} by
Naval forces, the United House of Bourbon, ~~has~~ ^{has}
but dejection is not the means of lessning it.

Which that strength is kept entire at Brest or other
~~parades~~ ^{parades} ~~stationary~~ ^{stationary} in the Channel, ^{it will not be wise to be making} ~~detachments~~ ^{detachments} ~~from~~ ^{from}
~~consequence~~ ^{consequence} ~~from~~ ^{from} the Squadron under the
Command of Sir Charles Hardy, ^{which must be a proper regard to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Barbary~~ ^{Barbary} ~~Arrogant~~ ^{Arrogant}
and Shalbers ^{which are in two or three situations to weather} ~~cannot~~ ^{cannot} ~~venture~~ ^{venture} ~~beyond~~ ^{beyond} ~~the~~ ^{the}
Shoals the ~~Spaniards~~ ^{Spaniards} ~~have~~ ^{have} a Squadron of sufficient
but ^{force}

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but when the Spaniards return home a Squadron of sufficient
force to secure the taking the Ships that block aded ^{the} Gibraltar
and to relieve that Populous Fortress must be without ^{the} loss
of a hour detached.

The Fleet in the West Indies is quite useless unless
at least seven Ships are relieved and Men sent out
sufficient to complement those that remain, our Islands
must be defended even at the risk of an invasion of this
Island, if we lose the Azores Islands it will be impossible
to raise Money to continue the War and that no Peace
can be obtained but such a one as He that gave one
to Europe in 1763 never can subscribe to.

We must be ruined if every idea of Offence is
is to lay dormant until this Island is brought in a
situation to defy attack, if there is the smallest spark
of resolution in the Country it must defend itself at home
though not a Ship remained for its defence.

If Ministers will take a firm decided part and risk
some thing to save the Empire I am ready to be
the foremost on the occasion as my Stake is the
dearest; but if nothing but measures of caution are
pursued and further sacrifices are made for a want
of bottom which alone can preserve a state when
hard pressed I shall certainly not breathe a word.

oblig
to my
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H. K. to hd. Sandrich
(Draft)

3518 (2)

obliged after a conduct shall have been held so contrary
to my opinion, to screen them from the view of
an enraged Nation

Officers
Warrants
about
about
about
about
of this
impossible
I fear
we are
I was
in a
to speak
at home
risk
to be
in the
to be
ward
when
at home

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper]

13 Sept 1779