

Ld. North

3527

Sir

I was prevented this morning from paying my duty at St James's by attending a Committee of Council, & by two conferences, one with Lord Gower, & the other with Lord Stormont.

As soon as I open'd to Lord Gower your Majesty's intended arrangements, he stop'd me by saying that it had been his intention to call first upon me lest the resolution he had taken should appear to have some relation to the persons compriz'd in any suppos'd plan of administration. That he had long felt the utmost uneasiness at the manner in which your Majesty's affairs had been conducted, & at the weakness of government. That nothing is done in the material objects of

government; That, in particular, no plan is  
settled with respect to the affairs of Ireland  
in which he felt himself personally concerned after  
what prof'd last year in the House of Lords. That  
we were now at the eve of a meeting of the Irish  
Parliament, & that the utmost confusion might  
be expected from that quarter. That no precau-  
-tions had been taken to guard against it, & no  
measures determined upon which might pacify the  
Irish. That there is no discipline in the State,  
in the Army, or the Navy, & that inevitable ruin  
must be the consequence of the present system  
of government. That he therefore thinks himself  
obliged in conscience as well as in prudence  
to request an immediate dissolution from his em-  
-ployment, where he can be of no use in any other

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3527 (2).

the evils which impend over this country - That  
he never means to return into office, but that  
in his private capacity, he will strenuously support  
your Majesty's government; That he has always  
consider'd the opposition as more wicked than  
the administration is weak, & has not the least  
connexion with any of the oppressors of government.  
That he fears every remedy may be too late in  
our present evils, & that the authority of govern-  
ment is not to be recover'd, but that he holds  
it absolutely impossible that the public business  
can in moments like these, be carried on against  
a strong & formidable opposition - That nothing  
can afford the least hope but a coalition - and  
he is ~~very~~ doubtful of the benefit which may  
now be deriv'd from it - That it is, however, in  
his opinion, a necessary measure - That he feels

the greatest gratitude to your Majesty for your  
goodness towards him, but that he does not  
think it the duty of a faithful servant to en-  
deavour to preserve & continue a system which  
must terminate in the ruin of your Majesty  
of this country.

Had your Majesty desired me to communicate the  
conversation to your Majesty, which I have  
endeavour'd to do as correctly as my memory  
will permit. When your Majesty sees him, you  
will be able to learn, whether I have represent-  
ed correctly what he said to me. It there is no  
impropriety in your Majesty's reading this part  
of my letter, I should be glad if it were commu-  
-nicated to him, that your Majesty may  
know whether I have fairly stated the conver-  
-sation or not.

When I saw Lord Stormont I mention'd your Majesty's gracious intentions with respect to him, but, as I could not open to him the state of the administration, I did not think myself entitled to request his immediate answer.

I think myself obliged to lay before your Majesty my sentiments upon this resolution of Lord Gower, which are, that if he carries it into execution, there is an immediate end to the present administration. I have long & often humbly represented to your Majesty my inability to carry on your Majesty's business; I feel it everyday more & more, & I am almost certain that I shall be abandon'd in the next Session of Parliament. The retreat of Lord Gower, & the

consequences which will certainly follow, will  
totally cripple government. Let me intreat your  
Majesty to turn it in your mind, whether a  
Coalition, which, I agree with Lord Somers, is the  
only possible remedy in our present situation,  
may not be obtain'd by my removal, & whether  
it is worth while to keep me any longer when I  
am forced to confess that my spirits & my faculties  
fail me sensibly, & grow worse every day. Your  
Majesty knows that I shall be contented to retire  
without any honour or emolument whatsoever.  
Before I see your Majesty tomorrow I will  
turn this matter in my thoughts, & endeavour  
to give you the best advice in my power, but  
I am really so broken, that I can not trust  
my judgement more than my abilities.

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P. J. It  
liberty of  
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I have the honor to subscribe myself  
with the most dutiful attachment.

Sir,

Your most obedient  
& most faithful

Subject & servant.

P.S. I take the  
liberty of inclosing  
some papers of intelligence.

Wm Pitt

N.

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in cursive script, possibly a letter or document.]*

As order  
Relates a Conference with  
24 Generals and another  
with 28. The result.

about Sept. 1779