

John Robinson

Oct. 4 1779

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Mr Robinson has the Honour to acquaint your Majesty that the Meeting of the Freeholders of the County of Middlesex residing within the Tower Hamlets held to Day, was not numerous, not exceeding 120 People; That Mr Byng was there, accompanied by Mr Baker Member for Aldborough, and a Mr Draper an Auctioneer, and many other Friends; Mr Draper proposed Mr Byng to represent the County, Col. Tuffnell was proposed by Mr Spiller, and Lord Mahon and Sir Thos. Hallifax were likewise named but not supported. Questions arose whether Mr Byng and Mr Tuffnell could offer themselves being already in Parliament, and it was much debated, on which Mr Tuffnell declared he had applied to Lord

to Lord North for the Chiltern Hundreds and hoped
to have them to vacate his Seat for Beverley, which made
Mr Byng very angry, and declare that altho' he had a
very great regard for Col Tuffnell he must now
consider him as a Ministerial Candidate, and wd
oppose him, and apply also to Lord North to vacate
his Seat - During this Altercation many persons
went away, However Mr Byngs friends insisted on
a Division, on which there appeared for Mr Byng 40
for Mr Tuffnell 37 according to the best Account Mr
Robinson could get of the Division, and it was insisted
that a General Meeting of the County should be
called, and twelve Freeholders wrote to the Sheriff
to request such Meeting - This apprehended that

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and hoped Sir Charles Thompson may come in for Beverley
which made in Col. Tuffnell's room very easily. The Duke of
Northumberland has had a very full explicit and
satisfactory explanation with Mr Tuffnell, altho
Mr Tuffnell has in general hitherto gone against
Administration.

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[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the document.]

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