

ld. Sandrich

Fortescue 2791

3540

Admiralty Octo: 9th: 1779

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Lord Sandrich, upon a presumption that your Majesty will forgive his troubling you with any information that he can give relative to the language & disposition of your principal servants, takes the liberty to inform your Majesty that he has this morning had a long and very confidential conversation with Mr Rigby upon the present state of the Administration.

Mr Rigby did not drop anything that looked as if he was informed of L^d Gowers having apprized your Majesty of his determination to quit your service; he said that L^d Gower had told him two years ago that he was desirous of retiring, but he did not intimate that he knew

he had taken that resolution finally and decisively at this time.

He lamented very much the indecision & weak management of L^d North, to whom he attributes everything that has or may happen amiss; he also expressed himself strongly against L^d Weymouth's unfitness for the office of Secretary of State under whom it was impossible the business of the House of Lords could go on for another Session, and added that he was positive L^d Weymouth knew his own unfitness, and would readily accept a more quiet office.

as a proof of L^d North's negligence he said that he knew that L^d Carlisle had been suffered to go out of town without having been asked whether he would accept the Board of Trade, tho' he understood it was open for his acceptance.

nothing that fell from Mr Rigby conveyed the most distant idea that he wished this

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administration should be at an end; on the contrary he lamented the probability that it would be so, and that he himself should be included in the disaster.

He acknowledged that two active Secretaries of State would do much towards bringing things right, but did not know where they were to be found: he allowed that L^d Stormont would be a very good one.

He said that from L^d North's dilatoryness, & talking of arrangements which he never carried into execution, he was convinced he would not meet the Parliament; and that both himself (Rigby) and Lord Sandwich should lose their employments.

as they were parting, Lord Sandwich said that after all, he remained of opinion that this administration was the best of all notwithstanding its weakness in some points; to which he declared his most hearty assent.

Lord Sandwich is to see Mr Robinson to morrow morning at Lion by appointment, to talk to

him upon the same subject; and if your Majesty chuses to be troubled again, he will send an account of everything matter that passes in their conversation.

Lord Sandwich had like to have omitted mentioning that Mr Rigby said that he carried L^d Carlisle home from dinner at L^d Gowers on Wednesday last, and that his language was rather that of opposition, but precisely expressing his opinion that this administration could not last.

9 Oct 1778