

H. K. to the Chancellor (Thurlow)
(Enc. to 3547)

3546

Windsor Castle Oct. 16th 1779.

My Lord, The same opinion of your talents, and strict adherence to your Political Sentiments, which made me desirous of placing you at the head of your Profession, makes me take this method of apprising you of some remarkable events that have occurred since your departure from Town. The intention of Lord Howe to retire from my Service may I believe have been conveyed to you, but not his having actually notified it unto Me; I should have thought it better timed if it had been mentioned to me after the very full confession I made to the Cabinet of my political Sentiments at the Queen's House in the month of June, either at that meeting, or if he was not then prepared, in his last Audience before he went to Frentham; now it is adding difficulties but a few Weeks before the meeting of Parliament. His language was to this effect, that Administration is weak, a want of activity, decision or subordination in every department, at the same time Opposition very wicked and he owned not to be trusted, yet that a coalition ought to be attempted which if effected might save the Country, yet that he saw no day light as to the possibility of producing this, but that it would put them in the wrong if they refused it, and that
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might produce good; in short he seemed to despair and to think ruin inevitably near at hand and he fears no way left to prevent it.

Lord Weymouth whom I saw yesterday was not apprized of this resolution till Wednesday; he thinks ill of our present situation yet does not seem to give me any prospect that a coalition can be expected.

Lord North has my directions to talk farther with Lord Weymouth on the subject, when I know the result of this? I shall write more fully unto you but I think it but fair to state that I am clear of opinion and that founded on cool reflection that if my present Ministers cannot go on it is my duty to draw a veil over the many personalities that have most unjustly been thrown out against me as far as regards any Men of talents who will at this hour come and join part of my Ministers to extricate the Kingdom out of its difficulties; but before I enter into any consideration as to particular Offices I must have an Assurance that it is intended to shew every method to keep the Empire entire, to prosecute the War with Vigour in all its branches, and that past Measures shall be treated with respect. The whole of this is so analogous to your sentiments that I cannot doubt of your assistance if the measure should become necessary. I shall not detain you longer than to add that I have here stated the
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farthest length I can go, and if there are any persons who
think the difficulties of the times may bring me to farther
concessions they are much mistaken.

Druggt to Mr. M. Chamberlaine
Windsor Castle Oct. 16. 1777