

ld. Sandwich

Fortescue 2801

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Admiralty Octo: 16th: 1779

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that yesterday L^d North called on him after he came out of the closet; when he was very open & communicative upon the present state of your Majesty's government; he mentioned L^d Gower's resignation & L^d Weymouth's coldness, and asked L^d Sandwich's opinion what should be done.

Lord Sandwich of course pointed out decision and immediate execution of whatever plan your Majesty meant to pursue, & he thinks what he said made much impression; especially as L^d North said he would go to L^d Stormont immediately. None of his conversation led to his own resignation, but on the contrary pointed towards the mode of carrying on the business of the next Session.

He complained of not being supported in the House of Commons, & said that Mr Jenkinson in the capacity of a Chancellor of the Exchequer would be of great use to him there, and very much so as a member of the Cabinet. Lord Sandwich thinks he added that even if he was in the Cabinet as Mr Fox was, being Secretary at war, it would have great advantages. In this Lord Sandwich joined entirely with him in opinion, and presumes to suggest to your Majesty that the giving Lord North such an assistant as Mr Jenkinson would have the best of consequences, would keep up his spirits and make him more decisive, and would indeed make him a different man.

Lord Sandwich has seen Mr Robinson this morning before he had been with Lord North, has told him what passed yesterday, & sent him to Lord North with a full determination to inculcate decision and activity in his principal, & to urge him to go in with spirit in carrying on the present system.

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Mr Robinson thinks that nothing could be more advantageous to your Majesty's affairs than that Mr Jenkinson should be in the Cabinet as Secretary at War.

Your Majesty will receive herewith all the Letters to this office that deserve your attention, and will observe from Sir Charles Hardy's private Letter not only that it is his intention to proceed to sea the first moment the wind will allow him to do so, but that he will probably be able to take some of the sickly ships with him.

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Admiralty Oct 6 1879.*