

Charles Jenkinson

3582

Addiscombe Place
Nov. 11. 1779

I came to St James's today in order to
pay my Duty to your Majesty, but
seeing the Lord Chancellor & Lord
North there, whose Business would
probably be very long, besides Lord
George Germaine, I thought it might
not be to trouble your Majesty. I will
presume therefore to put upon Paper
some things, which I intended to tell
your Majesty.

Lord Mansfield had pre-
viously called on me, I went there
yore to his House yesterday Evening,
He was only but had ordered him-
self to be sent for in case I came;
I saw him therefore & had a long &
confidential Conversation with him;
The

The general purport of which was that
 He lamented the present State of Af-
 fairs & particularly your Majesty's Li-
 bation; He blamed the conduct of Lord
 Dover & Lord Weymouth in resigning;
 He said that if they thought the Go-
 vernment weak, instead of doing this,
 they should have apprized your Ma-
 jesty of it, & have assisted you in
 forming a stronger. He said that the
 best thing that could now be done, was
 to induce them to remain in their present
 situations till after Christmas, so as to
 afford time to negotiate & to form some
 coalition; He was of opinion that the
 Chancellor was the proper person to
 be employ'd in the Negotiation; Upon
 hearing of Lord Weymouth's Negotiation,
 he had gone to the Chancellor or his
 say & had talk'd a great deal with
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3582 (2)

He told me that Lord Grey had wished to see him in order to tell him his story, but that he had only had a short conversation with him at St James's on this day evening. Though Lord Mansfield was absent he was in better spirits, than I should have expected, & appeared to be very well disposed.

This morning the above my General called on me; he had heard very little since I saw him on Sunday; he did not yet know whether Lord Grey's death's resignation was determined; all he told me, was that Opposition instead of being in high spirits were in low, probably alarmed at the melancholy state of things, to which they had so much contributed.

I afterwards saw Mr. Ho-
lison who told me that Lord North
thought

thought that things would not do,
that his spirits had been a little raised,
by the prospect of gaining Lord Howe; for
Mr Doyley had been with Mr Robinson,
had told him, that Lord Howe, he was per-
suaded, was ready to take the Command
of the Fleet; that he did not desire to be
Lieut. General of Marines, but thought
that Mr Chas. Hardy should retire to that;
he did not say a word of the Admiralty,
but desired to connect himself with Lord
North only. Mr Robinson was of opinion
on that Lord Sandwich wished to go from
the Admiralty to the Office of Secretary
of State; that Lord Dartmouth preferred
being Privy Seal, to that of being Sec-
retary, though he would take it if Lord
North desired it; & he added, though I
pay but little Credit to this last
opinion

opinion, that he was persuaded the Lt. General wanted this to be Secretary of State.

I saw Lord North afterwards, he appeared to me to be in a good deal of vigour of Mind & Spirits, though he told me, he had just received a very unpleasant letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

I afterwards called on Lord Gower, who was in exceedingly good humour. He had heard yesterday from Lord Weymouth his absolute determination to resign; He said he must part with the seals some time before Parliament met, but Lord Gower did not say a word of his ^{desire} to be out of his Office at any particular time; He then said I hear that
you

you intend to meet Parliament, in his opinion,
ing, that he did not expect that the pre-
sent Administration would have ventured
to do it. He then told me he had seen
the Duke of Grafton, & had a long con-
versation with him; he told him, that
if Opposition thought of forming an Admini-
stration but upon a broad Bottom, it
would never do, & that if one should be
form'd consisting only of themselves, he
should himself be forced in time to op-
pose it. The Duke of Grafton said, he
had no such thought, he should be a-
gainst such a Plan himself; that there
were many persons in the present Admini-
stration, whom he respected very much;
that though he disapproved of many parts
of Lord North's political Conduct, he
thought

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thought him an honest Man; His Grace
 directed His principal wrath against
 Lord Anherst & in some respects against
 the Admiralty, for that the ablest Offi-
 cers in the two Professions were not em-
 ployed; Lord Gower told me that he de-
 tected the Appointment of Lord Anherst
 as the properest that could be made,
 though he had not given satisfaction
 in it; that he defended the Appoint-
 ment of Genl. Hardy, that he insin-
 uated that Adm. Beppel was not popu-
 lar with the Nation at large, & that
 Mr. Hood though he was a gallant
 Man, had not shewn the Talents of a
 great General. He assured me that
 the Duke of Grafton was in the best
 State of Mind & Temper imaginable
 if he was not afterwards persecuted;

He

He added, that as he now considered him-
self as being out of Administration, he
could talk to People freely, & hoped to be
able to serve your Majesty & the Publick
by consulting Men's Minds & inducing
them to act together in your Majesty's
Service, which he should make it his
Business to do. He wish'd that Part of
the Opposition could know from some au-
thoritative Quarter, that your Majesty had
no Objection to them personally, - that if
there was to be any Faulty or any thing
to be said, the Chancellor was the proper
Person to be employ'd? I am convinc'd there is
a more Intimate Connection between him
& the Chancellor than between any two of
the Bedfords. I thought it right to
apprize your Majesty of all this, as it
may assist your Judgement in the present
critical State of Affairs. I am your Majesty's
Dutiful Subject