

Ld. North

Nov. 21 1779

3602

Sir.

I find that the Attorney General was at
St James's on Friday before I could be there
& expected me. If your Majesty can give him
leave that he will be secured in the
chief of his ambition a seat in the House
of Lords with a place of Chief Justice as
soon as your Majesty's affairs will permit
you to allow him to quit the House of Commons
or his Office of Attorney General, I believe
he will give a cordial & zealous support
without which, I am afraid your Majesty's
affairs will go on ill in the House of

Commons. When will your Majesty choose
to appoint him to act upon you? If your
Majesty could appoint him before Wednesday
& give him the promise mentioned above
I think he may be depended upon; I should
I can't otherwise whether he would not enter
by degrees into some concessions that will
render him at best a cool friend, if not
an active enemy.

The Duke of Northumberland is at
Bath, & no answer can be brought from
him before Wednesday. Would your Majesty have
an application made to him respecting the Presidency
of the Council? or would you rather choose

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that the offer should be made to Lord
Bathurst, who would certainly accept?

I suppose that your Majesty would have
me appoint Lord Hillsborough to receive the
seals immediately.

I have no apprehensions in the present
moment, but that, if your Majesty's government
should fall in the midst of a rebellion, it would
be imputed to me, & in that view, I mention'd
to your Majesty the fears that Mr Pittman
had unlearned on the subject of a question
respecting Plymouth which, I own, I consider
in a much more important light than your
Majesty, & conceive that (that question lost)
others will be difficult to carry. I thought

therefore, that it was right for me to state
it to your Majesty.

I am extremely sorry to find that your
Majesty thinks that great part of the
present mischief is owing to my behaviour
towards your Majesty's other servants, as
I have had it principally in view to please
them. What I have said of them, & how I
have acted towards them in private, your
Majesty knows, & very well certainly do
me the justice to say that my conduct
towards them in the closet has been fair
& friendly. - They have always known all that
I knew, unless I was forbid to communicate any
thing to them which has been very seldom.

I have never intermeddled in any of their de-
partments, - I have never clash'd with
their views, & but have promoted their
interest as much as lay in my power
on every occasion - I have always made
common cause with them - I have
always defended them when attack'd, though
they have not always had the same attention
to me - I have early endeavour'd to the
best of my knowledge to gratify them in
every thing, & I do firmly believe that
the distress of the times has made them
wish to separate themselves from me
& to lay the fault upon me. one thing

of importance they may say a friend here
viz. That I am not equal in abilities
to the station which I ought to hold, as
the planer, the director of Publick af-
-airs at this time: The truth of this
I have often acknowledged, & the conscience
-ous of this has often made me think
myself criminal in remaining where I am.
I have been miserable for ten years in obed-
-ience to your Majesty's commands, but
since your Majesty has now permit your
opinion, that I have been ^{the} ~~the~~ cause of
this mischief, I hope that your Majesty
has determined to permit me soon to

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retire, as I have now nothing to comfort me
in a situation which is odious to me, &
nearly it is impossible to bear misery &
guilt at the same time, for I must look
upon it as a degree of guilt to continue
in office, while the Publick suffers & while
no body approves my conduct. I beg leave
to subscribe myself, with the most dutiful
attachment.

Sir,

Your Majesty's
most dutiful subject & servant.

North.

Ed. North

Nov. 21st 1779.

Accounty of

the President's Place

in North's Expedition