

Ld. North

3679

Sir.

I have the honour of inclosing, for your Majesty's perusal, a letter I have received today from Mr Talbot, a Roman Catholic gentleman of fortune in Ireland a distant relation, I believe, of Lord Shrewsbury, a man of a fair character & who has the appearance of being a modest, sensible & dispassionate. In the course of last year, he ~~wrote~~ sent to me a letter from the same person who wrote the inclosed, giving intimations of the approaching junction of the Spaniards,

thinking that a peace might be concluded
upon the condition of admitting the inde-
pendence of America. The letters of
Mr Talbot's correspondent always speak
of the war as a lawsuit, & gave an im-
-putation of the interference of Spain
under the expression of fitting a Cop Bill
since the Spanish Declaration I lost
sight of Mr Talbot & his friend till
about a ^{six weeks ago} ~~fortnight~~ ago when the former
brought me another letter conveying the
probability of a peace but upon worse
terms than before. I express'd much distrust

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Ld. North

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in the French Minister, & gave such an answer
as I thought would prevent my hearing from
M^r Talbot any more, but my answer has now
produced another letter more explicit than any
of the former & which M^r de Cleward has
signed. All his former letters were without
any signature at all, & I suppose that by
setting his name to this, he means to give it
greater authority. Your Majesty will easily
understand the allusions in the letter, & what
the writer means by the Lansuit, the
thirteen acres of wood, & the Castle of
Jerry carrying whatever I may think of this
overture, It is so direct, precise, & imper-

tant, & comes from a person so closely associa-
-ted with the French Ministry, & particularly
with Mr. de Saxe, that I think it right
to lay it immediately before your Majesty,
& to communicate it to the Cabinet, when
your Majesty shall have perused it. I have
the honour to be, with the most dutiful
attachment,

your Majesty's

most faithful & devoted

servant & subject.
North

Ed. North

1779.