

been wanting in the discharge of it.

My conduct I think has been Uniform through the whole course of these Transactions; I wished for a Coalition, and that You as my Chancellor should be the Negotiator of it. Not only Your Office, but Your Character and Your acknowledged Firmness and Candour, pointed You out as a proper Person for this business. Soon after it was proposed to You, You said as I understood, that You would not begin the Negotiation, till Lord North had declared that He could not go on; Lord North at that time said He could go on; I know Your sentiments and His did not coincide as to the circumstances which were necessary to enable an Administration to go on, and the whole was explained to Me as stated in Your letter; but Lord North not declaring that He could not go on, I considered the Attempt to Negotiate to be for some time at an end; in consequence of this Lord North recommended the Persons whom He wished to have placed in the Great Offices then Vacant, and I consented to it; indeed it was necessary that two such Offices should be filled up at the Opening of the Session, if the Administration was to go on, even while we negotiated.

I never thought myself at liberty to begin the Negotiation again till the 1st of last Month when Lord North expressed a desire that an Attempt should be made to form an Administration on a broader basis. I saw You on the 3^d told You what had passed, authorized You again to proceed, and returned to You my paper.

I have hitherto certainly refused to declare which of my present Ministers with a view to Coalition I was ready to part with. Common prudence required that I should act with this reserve, till I knew whether those with whom I treated, were ready to consent to any

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H. N. to Lord Chancellor

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Coalition; I see no reason why I was not to expect that even in this case they should explain themselves first. I condescended however so far as to allow them to be informed that in order to attain the desirable end which I had in view, my first Minister had consented to relinquish his situation; after this concession it belongs to them to make the next advance, and to explain what they mean by Coalition. You will however I am sure recollect that when we first discoursed on this business, I told you that if what related to Principles was settled, I should in other respects be reasonable; but I must add that as yet the answer as to Principles is Evasive, and that my mind is not enough given to nice distinctions, to admit that one of My Ministers only remaining, the proposition of joining part of my Ministers would be fulfilled.

I am ready still to authorize a Proposition for a Coalition to be made in My Name, whenever you and Lord North shall think that the State of my Affairs make such a Measure proper, and that from the Temper of any part of Opposition, there is reason to hope that it can be made with the best prospect of success, but the Negotiation must be founded on the Principles laid down in my first Paper, and which you have so properly explained in your letter, and I am more convinced than I have been yet that in order to do any good, it must be a Coalition, and not a total Change of Government; from what you say in your letter of the present want of Authority in the different branches of Government, I am sensible there is a want of it, but Authority can never be restored by the mere change of one Party for another, it can only be resumed by a strong Government formed out of the Wise, the Virtuous, and Respectable of all Parties.

J. If there was any Doubt before whether Lord Shelburne knew by what Authority you spoke to him, it is evident that He must now have been clearly apprized of it, for He could never suppose that any Servant of Mine would venture without my express permission to disclose to a person in violent Opposition, a Secret of such Importance as that my first Minister had declared to Me his willingness to relinquish His present Situation; a Secret which I had been careful not to communicate to any of the rest of my Confidential Servants, and therefore that He knew then that you spoke by My Authority Towne &c.

Copy
Drawn up as Note for the
Clematis's information, but He
not having an Auditor, from the
date of His letter of the beginning
of 1754, I do not mean as a man
I'm sure I should not be permitted
new arrival to deliver it
Feb: 6. 1750.