

H. H. to Lord North

Meeting of the House
of Commons 1780

3806

Quam House May 19th 1780.
15th 11. 8 A.M.

Lord North cannot doubt that I received with pleasure
his Account of Mr. Burke's Bill having been defeated in the
Several Clauses that were before the Committee Yesterday.

But he cannot be surpris'd at the real sorrow occasion'd
by seeing he persists in the idea that his health will not
long permit him to remain in his present situation;
if I had the powers of Oratory of Demosthenes or the
pen of an Addison I could not say more on the subject
than what I can convey in the following few lines;
that I am conscious if Lord North will resolve with
spirit to continue in his present Employment that
with the Assistance of a new Parliament I shall be
able to keep the present Constitution of this Country
in its pristine Lustre, that there is no means of
letting Lord North retire from taking the lead
in the House of Commons that will not probably
end in evil; therefore till ^{we} things change to a more
favorable appearance I shall not think myself at liberty
to consent to Lord North's request. He must be the Judge
whether he can therefore honorably desert me, when inflexible
mischiefs must ensue.

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

19 May 1980