

May 19. 1780.
The King to L^d. North.

3807

Levens House May 19th 1780

^{on} p. 8. at. M.

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

But he cannot be surpris'd at the real sorrow occasioned 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 power of Oratory of a Demosthenes, or the pen of an Addison, I could not say more on the Subject than what I can convey in the following Lines; that I am convinc'd if Lord North will resolve with spirit to continue in his present Situation 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 end in evil; therefore till I see things change to a more favourable appearance I shall not think myself at liberty to consent to Lord North's request. He must therefore be the Judge whether he can honorably do so to me, when infalible mischief must ensue.

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