

Duplicate of 3900

3902

New July 3^d 1780.

Lord North will not be surpris'd when I acquaint him that since I saw him on Friday I have been constantly meditating on the Accounts He then gave me of the two Conversations He had had with M^r Montague. That Lord North may exactly know my Sentiments, I have thought it best to write them down, and for the greater precision to state what I understood to be the result of that Report.

I. That as to the American War it required no discussion with M^r Montague's friends, as they did not see how the Troops could at present be recalled from thence, and that the Dependency of America need also not be mentioned as it could not at ^{the} present hour be necessary to be taken into consideration.

II. That some public Measures must be admitted that M^r Montague's friends might coalesce with opposition such as 1^o M^r Creech's Bill for disfranchising Revenue Officers, 2^o The Contractors Bill and 3^o Part if not the whole of M^r Burke's Bill.

III. That Lord Rockingham did not want Office, but must be empowered to offer the D. of Richmond and M^r Fox to be considered on this occasion.

IV. That the Dukes of Grafton and Manchester should also be employed, as also M^r Tho^s Townshend and M^r Burke.

and V. That no objection would be made to any particular Man remaining in Office, but Lord Sandwich, who ought to be succeeded by Admiral Keppel.

After having given the Chancellor the last Ruben a paper of which Lord North has a Copy, there cannot be the smallest doubt
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but that the Evasive answer on America can by no means answer my expectation, indeed on all Constitutional Points the various parts of Opposition have run so wild, that it is absolutely necessary if any coalition is to be attained, that those who come into Office must give Assurances that they do not mean to be hampered by the Tenets they have held during their Opposition; No Man of Sense can pretend to defend Government, and support the Measures he employed with a View to overthrow it. Consequently no Matter at point ought to be veiled over, every step must be cleared up, unless they fairly own that with the Opposition they have left those principles, or this coalition will be nothing more than a patch, to secure Election in the New Parliament, and then Opposition be strengthened by the Desertion of the Apparent Converts.

The second proposition of Earl shows that I am not wrong in suspecting that those Gentlemen wish to bring at least part of their tenets with them, what I have said before decides my opinion on what ought to be said on this subject.

The D. of Richmond and Mr. Fox have more avowedly than any others of the Rockingham party dipped themselves, for they have added shortening the duration of Parliaments, and the former by a strange conceit of changing the whole mode and right of Election has consequently materially altered the Constitution as far as he can, this added to his unremitting personal ill conduct to Me, it cannot be expected that I should express any wish of seeing him in my service; though I hope I am not less forgiving than a Christian ought to be, yet I do feel that kind of spirit that every Gentleman ought

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ought, that persons must Atone for their faults before I can attempt to forgive. The D. of Richmond has not put his foot into my Apartments for above seven years, but not content with this, he sent me a Message by Ld. Weymouth that though he never came near me, he as adieut. General asked my leave to go to France.

As to M^r. Fox if any lucrative not Ministerial Office can be pointed out for him, provided he will support the Measures of Government, I shall not object to the proposition, he never had any Principle can therefore certainly Act as his interest may guide him.

The D. of Portland is a Man I should with pleasure see in my Service, he used to look towards Ireland if that or any Great Court Office should suit him, I should think it advantageous to my Service. The D. of Manchester in a lucrative Office, I should not object to. Messrs. Townshend and Burke would be real Acquisitions.

As to Ld. Sandwich whatever his private failings maybe, I know no Man so fit for his Department; he has now got out the finest Fleet this Country ever possessed, I cannot think it therefore either Wise or Just to remove him, and the more so in favour of one who would renew faction in the Fleet which it has required so much time to allay.

I must also add that I did not put down among the propositions the hint M^r. Montague threw out of a change in the Command of the Army, and undoubtedly if I was a fresh called upon to bring forward a General, I should upon the whole fix on Ld. Amherst as the fittest from Objections, though I do not think him perfect, yet he is void of the great faults the others have, besides after the reconciliation in my family, if I took another General, I could not avoid taking him from thence.

I now hope I have clearly placed my thoughts before Ld. North
and that he will see I am ^{as} anxious as ever for strengthening
Administration if it can be attained without a violation of my
Principles. I desire he will in the fullest and most confidential
Manner talk over the whole with the Chancellor, whose Talents
and Zeal for my Service I can depend upon, and who has a clearing
of conception and a firmness, that makes him willing to go to the
bottoms of every question; such language as he shall think
proper to be held will I am certain meet with my Approbation.