

Ld. North

Sunday Dec. 17 1780

4033

Lord North was, by a variety of persons
who broke in upon him on Friday last
detain'd at home till five o'clock in
the afternoon, & thereby prevented from
paying his duty at St James's. Between
four & five in the afternoon, he
received the inclosed letter, which he
gave to Lord Hillsborough who was present
for his perusal, He received it yesterday
from his Lordship, & shew'd it to Lord
Stourmont, but with those two exceptions,

He proposes to observe strictly the
secrecy recommended by his corres-
pondent. It will be rather diffi-
cult to draw a proper answer; Lord
Stermont wishes that none may be
sent till after he has made a return
to the suggestion of mediation from the
Empress of Russia.

Lord North is afraid that the steps
we have been obliged to take with respect
to Holland will greatly increase the diffi-
culty of raising this year's supplies.
He will endeavour to do his best, but

Ld. North

403

but
sub
his
imp
the
to
with
man
Bus

Ld. North

Sunday Dec. 17 1780

4033 (2)

but he thinks it his duty again to
submit to his Majesty, that he feels
his strength of body & of memory much
impaired, & that he is doubtful whe-
ther he shall be much longer able
to carry through his Majesty's business
in the manner which his Majesty
would wish to see it carried on.

Bushy Park. Sunday Even

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

Lord North.
Buckingham Palace, no date

19 Dec 1780