

Ld. Sandwich

Fortescue 3401

4296

Admiralty Sept: 5th 1781

$\frac{1}{2}$ past three P. M.

There is nothing new relative to the Combined Fleet, but Lord Sandwich thinks your Majesty would chuse to see and compare the two most accurate accounts concerning them.

Admiral Darby is ordered to send two frigates on different stations to cruize for the homeward bound fleets and order them north about, and an Express ^{is gone} to Ireland to order the Stag Frigate that is at Dublin to go on the same service, and the Seaford that is in the Clyde has the same orders these two ships being behind the enemy

run less risque of being intercepted.

The enclosed list of the force at home & its present destination will shew your Majesty in one view all that can be done in the present emergency, for the expediting of which every necessary order is given. Lord Sandwich is extremely unwilling to break in upon Commodore Stewarts expedition which is of the utmost importance to this country, and it is to be hoped that he will sail on Monday or Tuesday next.

a few days will throw more light upon this very delicate business, and when we know the real strength of the enemy, and what reinforcements we can give to admiral Darby, we must decide whether Mr Darby shall go out to attack them. but it seems to Lord Sandwich that it would be premature to determine this great point in the present moment.

Ed.

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Your
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Ld. Sandrich

Fortesque 3401

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Your Majesty will find in the box the French letter which you was yesterday interrupted in reading.

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1 Sept