

H. M. to Lord North

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Winchester Nov. 3. 1781.

~~11~~ 11 P.M.

Lord North will be naturally curious to know what news has been brought this day by Lieut. Col. Conway; I have within this half hour seen him and as far as I have been able as yet to collect from him, that having had Sir Henry Clinton's leave to come to England where the Campaign in Virginia was supposed to be at an end, and being better able from having better left that Province than any one at New York to state the Situation of Lord Cornwallis Sir Henry had judged it right still to send him with his Dispatches; his opinion seems to be that Lord Cornwallis will certainly leave the Chesapeake and return to Charles Town after having beat La Fayette, and that both these are likely events, that before he sailed a report of this kind arrived from Philadelphia, on the whole he supposes we shall in very few days hear from Lord Cornwallis, and he trusts Sir Henry Clinton will soon have some resolution to communicate this I own gives me satisfaction, with such excellent Troops if such an event can be effected I think success must ensue; I feel the justness of our cause & put the greatest confidence in valour of both Army and Navy ^{above}

above all in the Assistance of Divine Providence; the
moment is certainly anxious the Dye is now cast whether this
shall a Great Empire or the Least dignified of the European
States; the object is certainly worth struggling for, and
trust the Nation is equally determined with myself to meet
the conclusion with firmness; if this Country will persist
I think an honorable termination cannot fail, for truth
is ever too strong for such a conduct as France has held
and if we have any material success she will become
like of the part she has acted; duplicity can never
withstand any disasters but those who act on other
motives ought ever to support any misfortune from
the consciousness of the rectitude of intentions.