H. M. to Ld. Suffolk

GEO/MAIN/

July 22 1772

1356

Lord Suffolk, The handsome manner in which You have unbosomed Yourself to Me by the letter I have just received gives me great pleasure the more as I can perceive You take the affair in the same light I do; I shall but briefly mention what has passed that I may shew what has been the cause of the present very unpleasant state of affairs; after Your departure into the Country Lord North wrote to Lord Gower to desire the report on the Ohio business might be postponed, to which he received an answer that consented to it if the Cabinet but particularly You and Ld. Rochford came in to it; but the letter was certainly wrote by the debating Cabinet ~~to be sure~~ an ~~meeting~~ whether a report directed by the Privy Council should remain dormant was a new idea; Your Brother secretary who though possessed of many amiable qualities is not very prudent on receiving Your letter (wherein You thought this ~~Cabinet meeting~~ unnecessary but ~~manifestly thought~~ choice Lord North asks he had got into the puzzle should extricate himself out of it) ~~and if possible asks could~~ writes to the President that the two Secretaries were averse to the proposal upon which Lord Gower directs him to report it directly this he has communicated to Ld Hillsborough who means to resign

in a few days, but by the letter Lord Rochford sent me yesterday I find Lord North takes the thing much to heart and has certainly been actuated upon by Lord Hillsborough, whose natural suspicion is greatly encreased by the whole of this transaction and if care is not taken may be productive of some personal unpleasant thing between Rochford and him, by this short state of the affair you must see Lord North's natural good nature and love of indecision, added to too much precipitation in Lord Rochford and suspicion in Lord Hillsborough, with want of confidence in all the parties have brought this to the present strange situation which is rather difficult to be unravelled. I directed Lord Rochford yesterday to take no further step till he had seen Lord North and reported to me what has passed. I desire you will this morning see Lord North and pave the way to his speaking openly to you, I know the share you have in his esteem, but while you shew him an inclination to ease his mind you must ~~[illegible]~~ not ~~[illegible]~~ and the [illegible] in trying to keep Lord Hillsborough ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] must be taken ~~[illegible]~~

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danger of offending Ld Gower, this must be touched on very lightly in the first conversation

Kew July 22: 1772.

22 July 1772