

Should precede 2327

A. M. to Lord Sandwich

Fortescue 1810

2329

Queen's House Jan 4. 11. 1810  
on 33 N. 10. - L. M.

Lord Sandwich, I sympathize cordially with You on the melancholy  
 event that prevents Your coming before Sunday to St. James's.  
 Sir Hugh Palliser's letter shews he has not been idle during  
 Your absence, and I trust Your activity will instill that  
 vigilance into the inferior in Your great department that  
 is necessary in the present <sup>circumstances</sup> /  
 no delay will arise from the short notice You have had;  
 You call it as unprecedented, the expression in ordinary  
 times ought undoubtedly to be attended to, but when such acts  
 of vigour are shewn by the rebellious Americans, we must  
 shew that the English Lion when roused <sup>not only by his words, but by his actions</sup> had taken upon  
 him the swiftness of the <sup>sea</sup> Galleon. I should not wish so  
 desirous of employing <sup>myself</sup> /  
 to have <sup>myself</sup> /  
 had I did not entrust You with the general idea that is  
 of late entertained that the Navy is not so quickly  
 when called on fitted out as was expected by those who  
 know Your unremitting ardour to effect whatever You  
 undertake, my opinion on all occasions has been that  
 I did not <sup>that</sup> /  
 Department had been <sup>ready</sup> /  
ready three weeks before the Navy  
by the Southern Expedition /



but that the difficulty of obtaining Sailors was the cause of this, and that now a Bounty is ordered, I trust things will be carried on with infinite dispatch.

I cannot too strongly inculcate the necessity of setting all official forms aside <sup>that in the least delay</sup> to hurry on the engaging Transports; I have reason to think the Ships of force fitting out at Philadelphia are not to attempt any engagement with our Vessels of force but to <sup>interrupt</sup> ~~to go out in~~ search of homeward bound India Men, and perhaps Trading Vessels from the Sugar Islands. Ships must be fitted out for to prevent their succeeding; I cannot help on this occasion reminding you of the idea you mentioned some months ago of buying some Coal Vessels and fitting them out as Ships of War in short every means of obtaining many Vessels ought to be adopted, and a considerable addition ought with the utmost expedition to be sent to strengthen the Southern squadrons, for every intelligence points out St. Castacia as the Port from whence the Americans hope in the course of this Winter to obtain Gun Powder therefore between that place and N. America we ought to cover the sea with Vessels to disappoint them in this essential article for carrying on the next Campaign.