H. M. to Ld. North

Jan. 15 1778

2753

Lord North, The Address from Edinburgh is a very strong testimony of the zeal of that City, and as such I fear the plan cannot be changed without hurting the promoters of it; the immense number of New Corps has given promotion to one part of my Kingdom in preference to the rest; if the Gentlemen would be persuaded to turn their proposal into compleating the Old Scotch Corps in the service it would be much more advantageous and I would contrive soon to get Major Dundas the rank of Lieut. Col. which at bottom is the object of his relation; but if this cannot be effected without ill humour I will accept of the Corps, but hope after that is done they will not be coming with a list of recommendations of Officers which will be thrown on a zealous measure the air of private interest which would tally it.

It is impossible I could expect Lord North to be ready with answers for every absurd proposition Opposition may propose

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I know his abilities and zeal are equal to any man's but never dreamt that he was to be able to foresee what gentlemen may not as yet themselves have thought of; what I meant was that the great outlines of measures should be settled before the Houses reassemble that will prevent Differences of conduct in material respects, which could only tend to confusion; small variations though to be avoided when possible are not certainly of much import though they are unpleasant.

I hope Lord North will do his utmost to prevent the forming any more offers of new Corps they will instead of being of utility only perplex and totally annihilate all chance of completing the regular forces which alone in time of need can be depended upon particularly in England, the raising Corps would be total destruction to the Army I hope care will therefore be taken to turn the idea of a Westminster Regiment into a Subscription for completing the Army at large.

2753 (2)

I need not caution Lord North to hear Sir Philip Gibbes without letting him go away impressed with his opinions, for by the letter received from Burgoyne the other Sir Philip is known to be a doubtful character.

Queens House
Jan. 15. 1778
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15 Jan 1791