

Should follow 2772

Ld. North

Jan. 30 1778

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*50 Jan. 1778.
rel. to Secretary
to bring about a peace
with the States*

Ld North has received the honours
of his Majesty's letter concerning Ld.
Hutcheon's application to his Majesty.
as the mode in which Ld Warwick
intends to apply the subscription money
of Warwickshire is not disapproved by
his Majesty, Ld North imagines that
it would be right for Ld Hutcheon to
comply with Ld Warwick's wishes, &
& that it is best for the Stability & Unity
to settle the rest among themselves,
without making the Court & Ministry

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parties in the business.

Ld. North writes a note from Lord
Pembroke for the honour of his Majesty's
service; Having learnt that Lord Roberts
company might be raised in his absence
he wishes that he may be permitted to
continue some time longer abroad, & des-
-sired Ld. North to mention his wish
to his Majesty, but matters of greater im-
-portance put the whole out of his head.

Indeed, the anxiety of his mind for the
last two months has deprived Ld. North
of his memory & understanding. The promise

he has made of bringing forward a proposi-
-tion for peace with America, & the
necessity he thinks there is from the situation
of affairs, of endeavouring to draw some
of the Colonies from their claim & plan of
independence upon great Britain make
him think it necessary to take some
step of a pacific kind in Parliament.
but the ^{force} opinions, the consistency, & the
pride of his political friends & himself
stand in the way of every thing that
would be effectual, or, indeed, have
the appearance of a proposition

likely to be accepted in any part of Africa
= ca.

The direct proposition which might
be successful in separating some Colonies
from the rest, is that the Colonies or
any of them, upon renouncing their
claim of independence should be
exempt for the future from Parliamentary
taxation. To give up the laying of
positive taxes here, is to give up in
effect nothing, as it is pretty certain
that none will for the future, be ever
laid by the British Parliament.

But the present friends of government
will be hurt by being call'd upon
to give up in Parliament, & especially
the first subject of the quarrel, though
in the end they are convinced it must
end in this or worse. The Question carried
in the affirmative, may put many
people out of humour; Carried in
the negative, will render all accom-
=modation with the Colonies more
difficult. People might consent to
go this length upon a promise of a proper

contribution, but this being to be determined
=red by Commissioners on both sides,
no Colony would quit the Confederacy
for this advantage, if the enjoyment of
it were to depend upon terms to be
settled after they should have quitted
their friends, & consequently put them-
=selves at the mercy of Great Brit-
=tain. Some objections would arise to this
from the difficulty of wadding the Act
which under the name of taxation
might give up a great deal more than

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is intended; & because, & I think I am sure
being now vested with power of giving
up taxation for contribution, may have
made a good bargain for Great Britain
at the time that we are giving up the
point much & gratefully for a
renunciation of Independence.

These objections to the ^{very} only effectual
measure have made ^{J. North} us have recourse
to another plan, but which, though approved
by the Select Committee & consented to by
the Act's General with certainly well
with much contradiction. It is in
two words. To repeal the Tea duty.

To repeal the Massachusetts Charter
Bill, & to give by Act of Parliament
^{ample} powers to Commissioners to settle
every other point. A sketch, though
not a very exact one of this plan
is inclosed as drawn by the Solicitor
General. This will probably be much
opposed on one side, treated as trusting
on the other, & after displeasing many
friends here, have little effect in America.
But it is the best proposition Lord
North has as yet been able to bring to
any perfection, & he has come to improve

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his Majesty of the great assistance
he has received from the zeal &
labours of the M^r. H^{on}. General.

The whole of this matter has been
an additional proof to Lrd North
of his incapacity for the high &
important office in which he is
placed. a positive proposition ap-
pears to him necessary both for this
country & America: Lrd North's decli-
nation requires it; The situation of
affairs requires it in Lrd North's

opinion; at the same time it may
be very disagreeable to the present
zealous friends of government. If
a proposal is made it must be
a considerable & an explicit one
& such as bids fair ^{to} have some
effect in the Colonies. But what will
do there, may offend & fail here; Lord
North certainly cannot continue in office
if he ~~does~~ loves the question, ^{or} if he
carries it much against the inclination
= or of his friends. Lord North submits

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all these considerations to his Majesty,
& professing himself ready to submit
to every thing that his Majesty commands,
desires his Majesty to ~~read~~ read over
the enclosed proposition, & to consider
the more closely, & what Lord North
thinks, the better proposal mentioned
in this note, & to let him know his
Majesty's pleasure. Lord North is in
such a situation that, whatever he
does must be attended with some
disgrace, & much misery to himself,
& what is worse, perhaps, with

some detriment to the public. In this
case, perhaps, a change which might
bring into his room ~~a~~ some person
less pledged than himself might be
of advantage to his Majesty's service.
He submits the whole to his Majesty's
pleasure, & though his health, & his under-
-standing are greatly impaired by stay-
-ing so long in an office, & in circum-
-stances to which he has always been
unequal, he would not on that account sug-
-gest a thought of retiring, unless the simp-
-licity of his present situation did not make
him think it his duty to mention it.