

Ld. North

9 Mar. 12 1778. of No. 2810

2802

Lord North has received the honour
of his Majesty's command. He has given
directions for drawing an answer to the
address of the House of Commons, &
will not fail to send it to 1st January
as soon as it is finished. He assures
his Majesty that his ~~importance~~
upon a subject, so disagreeable to him
proceeds from a desire to serve his
Majesty & this country in this dangerous

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crisis, which, in his conscience, he
thinks himself incapable of conducting
so as to have any hopes of seeing them
honourably & happily relieved from their
present difficulties. It is not upon slight
experience that he is convinced of
his own inability even in moments of
much less danger than the present.
He acknowledges his Majesty's great
& repeated good will to him, but he
should be highly unworthy of the
continuance of it, if he should pre-
tend to be equal to a trust

of such magnitude. A thousand
circumstances point out the
expediency of some alterations,
& though they may be accompanied
with very disagreeable circumstances
shed forth, he will, as he ought,
abide any consequences rather
than undertake what he can perform,
& flatter his Majesty with the hopes
that he can serve him efficaciously,
when he thinks that the continuing
the present system will operate the
ruin of his affairs. In judgment is

undoubtedly, zealous for his Majesty's, &
desirous of what they owe to so good
& gracious a Prince, The Loan is, ^{no}
completed, but ~~the~~ not, I believe, without
the expectation of some help from Govern-
ment. but notwithstanding these appear-
ances Lord North thinks it highly
probable, that the first unfortunate
accident will throw the country
into the utmost confusion unless some
new hands (are employ'd in the conduct
of his Majesty's affairs. Lord
North hopes that his Majesty will do
justice to his motives in the advice he
gives. The situation of the country oblig'd him to ^{his} ^{statements} ^{freely} ^{Speak}