Ld. North

Nov. 10 1778

3108

Lord North has just received a key from Mr. Delgey of a Box which he understands to have been carried to his Majesty at Kew; Lord North imagines that Lord George Germain's Box will bring his Majesty an account of the disposition of the French of St Pierre & Miquelon, of which Mr Robinson has received information in a Letter from his Brother. No particular or remarkable circumstance appears to have attended the capture, so Lord North supposes that the islands surrendered at the first summons

Lord North having sent letters to Lord Germain

Percy & Lord Clive desiring them to move & second the address, he received an answer from the latter excusing himself. He proposes to apply to Mr. Talbot & Mr. Campbell, but he does not know whether the former may not decline it from observing the marks of dislike towards the present administration that Lord Talbot has often publickly shewn.

Lord North has sent out a second set of letters to the Members of the House of Commons pressing their attendance on the day of the meeting, & intends to have a meeting of the placemen &c. on Friday, in which he will request their support. but, though in

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3108 (2)

obedience to his Majesty's commands, he will do every thing to carry his business through the House of Commons, he can, by no means, answer for the success of it. He believes that the attendance will be more slack this year than the last; the strong measures that must be taken, the want of confidence & attachment to the present ministry, grounded on the bad success of their measures, together with some other circumstances, will, Lord North fears, render the Members of Parliament very indifferent

to the cause of Government, & much inclin
to avoid doing their duty in Parliament.

Lord Nath, upon the positive injun
=ons of his Majesty, remains in a situ
=ation for which he was never fit, & for
which he is now less fit than ever, but
he can never pretend to like it, or hold any
other language than his wish of retiring
He has already declared to his Majesty, th
& thinks himself obliged in conscience to
repeat the declaration, that he consider
his continuance in Government in his pres

stution or highly prejudicial to his Majesty's affairs, &, therefore, he intreats his Majesty to continue his search after a better arrangement.

There are two points, which Lord Melville has the honour of submitting to his Majesty's consideration, & which he conceives very important for the government of this country.

The first is, That the Public business can never go on as it ought, while the Principal & most efficient offices are in the hands of persons who are either indifferent to, or actually dislike their situation.

The second is, That in critical times, it is necessary that there should be one directing Minister, who should plan the whole of the

~~whole of the~~ operations of government & con-
-troul all the other departments of ad-
-ministration so far as to make them
co-operate zealously & actively with his designs
even tho contrary to their own.

Lord North conceives these two rules to be
wise & true, & therefore thinks it his duty to
submit the expediency of his resigning concerning
him as soon he can, because he is certainly
not capable of being such a minister as he has
described, & he can never like a situation
which he has most perfectly disliked even
in much better & easier times.

Having said thus much, & acquitted his conscience

3109 (2)

he acquiesces in his Majesty's pleasure, though he can not foresee much benefit to his Majesty's affairs under the present system.

Although Lord Melbourne will patiently wait his Majesty's pleasure, he thinks it his duty to suggest to his Majesty, what vacancies there may be easily made at present, if his Majesty should think proper to alter his administration in any respect. More would be vacated without difficulty. The first Lord of the Treasury, The Chancellorship of the Exchequer, The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, & The Secretary at War; The Mastership of the Horse is already open, & Lord Dartmouth & (as Ld. Melbourne is informed) Lord Talbot would willingly give up their offices for an

arrangement that should be agreeable to his Majesty. Lord North would not have thought it consistent with his duty, or his other decla=rations, not to have reminded his Majesty that he would at this time have the command of seven of the first officers in the country, if he should think proper to release Lord North from his present situ=ation.

As to the Wardership of the Cinque Ports, although Lord North, for particular reasons, prefers it to any office in his Majesty's disposal, yet he should think himself unworthy of his Majesty's favour if he were not ready to give it up, whenever it can be made

convenient for an arrangement materially serviceable to his Majesty's affairs.

Lord North has sometimes had thoughts of proposing to his Majesty a measure which would lessen his own fatigues a good deal, & introduce a most able servant into an important department of his Majesty's government; It is, to resign the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer to Mr Jenkinson, continuing still in the House of Commons as first Lord of the Treasury: His Majesty's affairs, in the department of the finances, would certainly be much better carried on in this manner, & Lord North would on that account bear it for one Session, but

If this idea should please his Majesty, Lord North would hope for his Majesty's promise that he should quit the Treasury at the end of the Session; because, though the public affairs would be greatly benefited by it, Lord North would, in a short time become a cypher at his Board.

Lord North hopes that his Majesty will have the goodness to pardon the length & inaccuracy of this note, which is much more tedious that Lord North expected when he began it, but flows from a heart

truly zealous for his service, which he should never wish to quit, unless he were convinced that he is not equal to a station of such consequence as that where his Majesty's goodness has done him the honour to place him.

Windsor Castle Nov.r 10. 1778.

Ld North
Bushy Park Novr 10 1778
m/55 M. 12. Rh

The French Dispatches of
St. Pierre & Miquelon
Concern: the Address.
despairs of being properly
supported in Parl.
wishes to retire.
his thoughts respecting the
direction of Government &c.
and the filling up of some
places.

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