

Ld. North

Dec. 21 1778

3160

Sir.

I suppose that Lord Suffolk has apprized your Majesty of the pocket book brought to me late on Friday evening by two gentlemen, one a Clergyman & the other a Surgeon, which they said they had found that evening in a coat near St Clement's church. It

contained very treasonable papers, partly in  
cypher, & ~~seeming~~ to allude to a design  
against your Majesty's life, which was to  
be put into execution as your Majesty should  
go to the playhouse in an evening through  
the alley near Lincolns Fields. The whole  
had very much the appearance of being  
fabricated for the purpose of giving an  
alarm, but whether the two persons  
who brought the packet book are the  
inventors of the story, or whether they only  
found it is uncertain. They refer to several  
well known persons for their characters &  
positively insist upon their having picked up the

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packet book. all the papers with the book  
were put into Mr. Tindal's hands on Saturday  
morning, who thinks the whole an invention  
to cause an alarm, & undertakes in a short  
time to let us know the authors of it. I don't  
say that in the course of this day or tomorrow  
we shall have a clear insight into this  
business; In the mean time, if your Majesty  
can, without being remark'd, avoid going to  
the Theatre, I should humbly advise you to  
do so, as some attention is due even to the  
most improbable story of this kind, before the  
truth or falsehood of it has been verified.

I had yesterday a long conversation with  
Mr. Rice, by which I find that Lord Talbot

will probably expect another office (of less value  
 than his present office) as well as a pecuniary  
 for his family, if he should resign the  
 Stewardship. Upon this & the rest of the  
 arrangement proposed, I will have the honour  
 of troubling your Majesty (either today or  
 tomorrow morning) with my sentiments. I beg  
 leave, with the utmost respect, & most  
 dutiful attachment, to subscribe myself

Sir,

your most devoted  
 & most obedient  
 subject, & servant

Ed Mordaunt  
 Busby Park Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 1778  
 I enclose a pocketbook  
 with some small papers  
 brought hither.

M. L. Lincoln  
 some ink & pens  
 intelligence from  
 Mr Wintour's  
 Busby Park  
 d. 21