

Ld. North

Dec. 31. 1778.

Ld. Suffolk - Ld. North
with your presence.

3169

31 Dec

Sir.

By the inclosed letter from Lord
Suffolk your Majesty will perceive
that your conjecture was right about
his preparing again to resign his
present office, but your Majesty
will perceive at the same time
that he will consider himself as

as used unkindly, if he is not immediately
placed in a situation as honourable, &
less fatiguing than his present employment.
His view is Lad Talbot's Staff, which
can not be had with Lad Talbot's
good will, unless your Majesty will
create a new peerage, & grant a provision
to some Peer now proposed of a considera-
ble situation, who will not esteem him-
self favour'd, but rather disgrac'd
by such a provision. If this arrange-
ment does not take place, Lad
Suffolk will be displeas'd, & then

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Ld. Suffolk - Ld. Home

to Ld. North

3169 (2)

His resignation may have the appearance
of a breach in the administration.
If it does, it will ^{take place} cost a new peerage,
& a fresh charge on the first list of at
least £3000 p^a annum.

As to the other arrangement your
Majesty mentions, it has its advantages
& disadvantages. Under the first head
may be reckoned, that the loss of Lord
Suffolk in the administration will be
replaced by a respectable addition in
the person of Lord Howe. That the
promises made to Lord Howe will

be performed. — That probably, all engines
will be chopt — & of Ministry & strength
by new accessions may be expected to be
more able than the present to with-
stand the storm which is ready to
burst upon our heads, as soon as we
shall receive the news that threatens
from the West Indies.

The Disadvantages will be these. We are
certainly well able to defend ourselves
with respect to the ^{in America} conduct of the War,
& every enquiry into that business will
probably tend to leave more blame upon

the Military Commanders than upon
us, but the appointment of Lord Howe
in this moment will certainly make us
appear conscious of guilt, & we shall
be thought to have bought off our
accuser — Lord Sandwich, though pro-
=moted, will consider his removal
from the Admiralty, as a condemnation
of the late conduct of that board &
Lord George Germain certainly can not
remain in office a moment after
one of his accusers is introduced
into the Cabinet — Whether Lord George
can, in honour, at such a moment

accept of any favour from the Crown
may be questioned; If he cannot, a heavy
charge of unfairness, & injustice will
remain upon your Majesty's counsellors &
every man be afraid of trusting them
hereafter; If he may with credit, &
I should hope he may accept of a mark
of your Majesty's approbation, that mark
must be considerable, & such as shall
convey to the world that your Majesty
is satisfied with his services, & have
consented to his retirement merely from
the necessity of your affairs. He has

ask'd at different times, The Wardenship
 of the Lingue Portt, & a Purvage, & I
 should think that his having ask'd any
 particular favours would render such a
 favour the most honourable to him.
 If your Majesty grants him the former,
 he will probably expect it with a
 salary equal to that which Lord Hold-
 servise enjoy'd; If he has a purvage,
 his last request, & which certainly would
 be the most honourable to him, It
 is highly to be apprehend'd that the
 attorney General, & many other aspirers

to peerages would be out of humour,
& that the promotion would, ^{not} meet with
a very general popularity. I do, ^{not} know
whether any thing else can be thought
of for him, but whatever is given to him
on such an occasion ought to be every
way creditable, & very distinguishing.

I have endeavour'd, in as few words as
possible, to state to your Majesty the prin-
-cipal advantages & disadvantages of
the arrangement proposed by your Ma-
-jesty. I own myself under a good deal
of difficulty to decide between them,

but I shall be in Town tomorrow morn-
=ing, when I will wait the honors of
your Majesty's commands, in order to
carry them into execution with all
dispatch. Our situation is very critical
& alarming, which, I humbly submit, can
be the only reason to justify your Majesty
in giving any attention to the proposed
arrangements which are liable to such
great & numerous objections. What remedy
to our present difficulties
even these arrangements can afford, may
perhaps, be a matter of doubt.

I beg leave, with all

humility & the most dutiful attachments
to subscribe myself,

Sir,

Your Majesty's

most obedient &

most devoted servant

& subject

Bushy Park

Dec: 31. 1770

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