

H. M. b. hd. Sandwich

Fortescue 2722

3454

New July 29th 1779.

Lord Sandwich, ~~I thought it necessary to mention yesterday~~ ought to be apprized that I yesterday mentioned
 to Lord Weymouth, Lord North and Lord Pembroke how
 very essential it appears ~~to me~~ ^{to me} the making an alteration
 or rather addition to the instructions of the Admiralty
 to Sir Charles Hardy of the 19th of June, which matter
 will be laid before the Cabinet for consideration this
 day, but as I ~~feel very much~~ ^{am so fully impressed with} the propriety of this
 I cannot help ~~in a letter to what I have said to each~~ ^{stating my sentiments on paper and desiring Lord}
~~of them, to state my sentiments on this subject to you~~ ^{sandwich to}
 with a desire you will communicate ~~the letter~~ ^{it} to the
 Cabinet, ~~as the means I think least of showing at~~
~~least all that occurs, to me in the occasion.~~

I own when that instruction was sent ~~to me~~ ^{it}
 it rather seemed to ~~me to~~ ^{carry} an appearance of leaving
 Sir Charles Hardy ~~to return~~ ^{forward a retreat} for further success than
 leaving him at liberty to take ~~the path~~ ^{the path} the circumstances
~~of the moment might point out as most efficacious.~~
~~think best.~~ yet at that time, the Gallies, Resolution
 Ferrible, Formidable, and Prudent had not joined him, it
 might therefore be cautious to give that advice; the situation
 is

is now changed, all those Ships have probably by this
time ^{reinforced} ~~joined~~ the Admiral ^{in the course of} ~~within~~ the reach of
August scarcely more than the Marlborough,
Ardent and Buffalo can be added to his ^{squadron} ~~fleet~~; ^{such an additional strength} ~~such~~
that cannot be thought ^{under the present circumstances} ~~to be~~ ~~desirable~~;
as to our ^{now} ~~present~~ ^{conspicuous} ~~position~~ in the Fleet adds more
real strength to it, than those three Ships obtained
by a retreat, which could not fail of greatly humbling
the spirit of that Squadron. Besides if Sir
Charles quits the ^{Station} ~~off the Coast~~,
Ireland is quite open ^{to every attempt of} ~~to~~ the United Fleets
~~to take such measures as may seem most to~~
~~favor their views, and the East India and~~
Rich Fleet from the Islands must fall into
their hands.

~~The English are certainly naturally brave but if
they see distress and over caution attend every
measure it must incline them to despond, & difficult
great exertions and some hazards must be taken~~

I do not mean by this that Sir Charles Hardy should be ordered at all events to risk an Engagement; but should be informed that having received a very large reinforcement since the date of those Instructions, it is his duty to take such steps as the valour and discipline of the Squadron under his command may naturally encourage, and should the joint Efforts of the Enemies be too strong for him with any probability of success to risk a general Action, that he should at least so watch them as to avail himself of every contingency. X

~~I cannot conclude without expressing my firm opinion that if Sir Charles Hardy is in a manner to be sent to sea and gain a decisive Victory this Campaign without attempting a Battle, and by doing so and not by a more hazardous and uncertain one, that even if any Disaster should befall our other parts, it will not fail to be well attended and disgraced. General Hardy was who of making his presence a triumph, will ruin those who recommended him for the Command, and probably enable France to send a Landing their troops in this Island as well as in the Land.~~

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly a list or account, with several lines crossed out by diagonal lines.]