

farad backward in taking his share of
 deciding them according to your Majesty's
 wishes; but the rest of your ministers
 should take their part also, and the advice
 to be given to your Majesty from the meetings
 should (as was usual before) be reduced
 into writing, and when a question is agitated
 there it ought to be decided one way or
 the other, and ^{not} put off as now most frequently
 happens, without any determination.

Lord Sandrich has, in this situation of
 things thought it advisable to write very
 seriously to Lord North to recommend
 firmness & decision to him, & to shew him
 how necessary it is that he should take the
 lead at our councils, and act with ^{the} spirit
 that becomes the principal person who has
 the honour of your Majesty's confidence as
 a Minister; whether this will be of any
 use L^d Sandrich cannot pretend to say, but
 he means it well, & knows of nothing

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else that it is in his power to do to add strength to your Majesty's councils at this critical conjuncture.

Lord Sandrich has the honour to enclose the letter received yesterday from Sir Charles Hardy together with one from Mr Stephens, as also Commissioner Kirks accounts of the progress of victualling the fleet; and to add that yesterday he had the pleasure of seeing the Alide sail from Deptford to Long Reach.

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper, possibly a letter or document fragment.]

14 Sept 79