

V^l. Weymouth

Ealing Nov. 6th 1779 ⁱⁿ ₄₅ past one P.M.

3573

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The honor of your Majesty's note, & the very gracious expressions in it, add greatly to the uneasiness which I too much felt before. But your Majesty may be assured that it is not a sudden project of retiring which has made me take the step which I had the honor of laying before your Majesty yesterday: it was after the most mature consideration, & the greatest struggle with my own mind, that I found I could not avoid it. I shall always be ready not only to express but to shew every attachment to your Majesty's person and service, & it is upon the fullest conviction that my remaining at present in office can be of use to neither, that I must lay myself at your Majesty's feet, & most humbly implore your permission to retire. The responsibility of the Office of Secretary of State

is not the objection to it, & the Presidency of the Council or any other Cabinet office must be consider'd as equally responsible, but if there were any difference between them in that respect, I must humbly submit to Your Majesty's consideration how far it would be for the honor or benefit of your service, that a person should be in a high employment in it, who had quitted his former office merely to avoid the responsibility of it.

I must rely on Your Majesty's goodness, which I have often experienced to excuse this measure which arises from a mind deeply impress'd with the firmest attachment to Your Majesty, & convinc'd that, in the present circumstances, it is for the benefit of Your Majesty's service