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V<sup>t</sup>. Wymouth Ealing Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 1779  
on <sup>m</sup> N. one P.M.  
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The honor of Your Majesty's note, and 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 and the greatest struggles 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, and 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, and most humbly implore Your permission to retire. The responsibility of the Office of Secretary of State is not the objection to it, and the Presidency of the Council or any other Cabinet Office must be considered 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 impressed with the firmest Attachments to Your Majesty, and convinced that in the present circumstances, it is for the benefit of Your Majesty's service.



