

Lord North
Downing Street Nov. 30th 1779.

3614

Lord North has the honour of informing
his Majesty, that he has great reason to believe
that the object of Lord Shelburne's motion
in the House tomorrow, & of Lord Blyden's
in the House of Commons on Monday next is
to blame in the strongest terms the delays which
have prevail'd respecting Ireland, & to direct
the whole blame at Lord North. That the
motions expect to be supported by Lord Howe &
his friends, & do not despair of the assistance
of the Chancellor. This expectation, wild as it

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appears, is not absolutely impossible; Lord Chancellour
& Lord Stormont both on Saturday last & yesterday
- day, ^{have} given in the Cabinet the strongest
marks of their dislike to Lord North. As
they are two of the ablest, if not, the two
ablest servants which his Majesty
has, their dislike ^{to} & disapprobation of Lord
North will render it almost impracticable
for his Majesty's affairs to be carried on ~~by~~ ^{by} the
present Ministry. His Majesty had better part
with Lord North a thousand times than
lose the assistance of the other two.

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The Chancellor not only strongly reprobates the
conduct, ^{of Lord North} in the meetings of the Cabinet; but
but in his conversation with several persons
frequently repeats that it is necessary that
Lord North should be removed. Lord North
hardly thinks that he will in a public debate
say anything tomorrow which may amount to an
open breach, but his sentiments are so well
known that the opposition have conceived
great hopes of the part he will act to-
morrow. It is said that three resolu-
tions are to be followed by an impeach-
ment of Lord North, from whence Lord North

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expects no mischief personally to him-
self & which he wishes to meet, if
possible, out of office, & trust to his in-
nocence alone & to the protection of the
Law. What however, concerns him only is
a matter not worth a moment of his Ma-
jesty's consideration, but it deserves well
the maturest deliberation, whether, in the
midst of these growing difficulties, it is not
become indispensably necessary for his
Majesty to turn in his thoughts some
new arrangement. And that himself
is so broken in memory, in spirits, & in bod-
ily strength that he can not hope to be

able to serve well much longer, however ready
 he may to sacrifice all his wishes, & all his
 labors to His Majesty's commands. After
 the declarations of Lord Rockingham's
 friends & of Mr Fox on the first day
 of the Session, Lord North conjectures that
 Lord the Duke & his little party may
 be easily induced to make up an ad-
 -ministration with Lord Chancellor,
 Lord North, Lord Townshend & his friends,
 especially, while the effect of the
 Majorities at the opening of the
 Session remains. But that moment

will pass, & these persons be plunged into
a determined opposition against a divi-
-ded Cabinet, who will not, in that
case, be able to do right in any one
of the great questions which are before
us. To this misfortune must be added that
Lord North disapproved by his brethren
in the Cabinet will not be fairly
supported in the House, as the long
conversation he has had with the
Attorney General gives him every reason
to doubt whether he will not leave
him soon in some very material

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question. Lord North thought it his duty
to mention all these circumstances
to the King that his Majesty may be
able to determine what is best for
himself, & for the public. Lord North
wishes to think there is a moment which
may be made use of, & which, once past,
can never be recalled. The probability
is that Lord North will be fairly dis-
-cerned away in the course of the
Session, & a party coming in victoriously
will carry their expectations very high
indeed. If his Majesty will give way

now that which will, Lord North
fears, be extracted from him; He will
probably, preserve a great many men
whom he opposes. He will have an
administration strong enough for the
times, & he will be able to await him
-self upon North's services as a
Member of Parliament in which he
can serve him tolerably well though
he can not serve well as a Minister
for, though Lord North does not desire to
his best till his Majesty sees the pro-
-pensity of it. He is convinced that there
will never arrive a time in which such

a change will not be worse than at present. The Government will certainly grow weaker every day.

In case of change, Lord Sturmont will, probably, remain; Lord Bute and Lord Hillsborough were apprized by Lord North of the danger when they accepted, & the latter will not be unwilling to retire.

Lord North hopes that his Majesty will consider this as proceeding from his notion of his duty, to give his Majesty the best advice he can, upon what he

has seen for these few days past
in the Cabinet, & from what he has
learned from Mr Robinson who has
collected his information from good
quarters. Lord North submits it ~~to his~~
Majesty's consideration, & desires that
his Majesty's interest & the Publick's
only may be considered. The little
while he was some body, he will to
the best of his power, but his Majesty
may be assured that the advice he
gives is the best in the present
appearance of affairs.