

A.M. to hd. Chancellor
(Duplicate of 3640)

3641
Queens House Dec. 11. 1779.

My Lord It is impossible to be more pleased than I was
with the Candour with which You stated to Me yesterday the
very little Information You had been able to collect and with
which You at the same time confessed that if any farther steps were
to be taken in this Embryo of a Negotiation, it could alone arise
from my condescending to depart in some degree from the Plan
I have hitherto laid down, and stating something more specific
than my inclination to adopt a Coalition of Parties. I will
owne ingenuously, that from the conduct which has hitherto
been held by those with whom You have conversed, I auger
very little good from the farther prosecution of this Business,
and nothing but the earnest desire I have to unite my
Subjects in the present moment of danger, and to form a
strong Government out of the most able and respectable of
all parties, would induce me to make any farther Attempt,
influenced however by this last motive as in order to
make the person with whom You last conversed, if possible
more open and explicit, I consent that You should acquaint
Him that Lord North's situation will not stand in the way
of any Arrangement and that he does not desire to be a part
of

of any new Administration that is to be formed. This declaration ought to convince that person, that I really mean a coalition of Parties, and not merely to draw him in to support the present Ministry. If he is satisfied with this opening (as I think he ought) he is through. You to state his Sentiments on the future conduct of Public Measures, and to what Degree the Demands of his friends may be restrained, always understanding that I do not mean the quitting the one Set of Men for another, but the healing as far as depends on me, the unhappy Divisions that distract my Kingdoms.

I wish that this business may be brought to its Issue as soon as it conveniently can, for if it does not succeed, it is high time that I should take such Measures as may be necessary for the Strengthening and Support of the present Ministry.

J. North 17 Dec 17