

Charles Jenkinson Esq  
(Enclosure to 3663)

3662

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 1779

The Person, with whom I conversed yesterday, after some Discourse on the Meeting in Yorkshire which he appeared very desirous to oppose, began to talk of the Disrupt of Administration, saying that it was impossible it should go on, & he added several Circumstances in order to confirm his Opinion, respecting those, with whom he is at present join'd? Upon it being suggested that it might be proper to add Strength to the present Administration, but that nothing could be done till the next time to their Service, for that Opposition would not consent to a Coalition. He replied that he did not think that any one was authorized to say that Opposition would not consent to a Coalition; & he then proceeded to say, that he was of Opinion that a Message should be sent to Opposition proposing a

a coalition of the wise & respectable of  
all Parties that if the Opposition consented  
to a coalition they should then be told that  
Lord North's situation should not stand  
in the way of a proper Arrangement &  
that he did not desire to be a Part of  
the new Ministry, but that it should be  
added that if this did not succeed, Lord  
North was ready to go on, & that the  
Opposition should then be called upon to  
explain what they meant farther than  
by Coalition. He added that nothing  
should be done in this but with Lord  
North's consent, & that in case of a Change  
of Government he should be treated ve-  
ry honourably & particularly that he  
should go into the House of Lords; I was  
astonish'd at all this, as with I might  
think, as I did, that the Line of Con-  
duct suggested above, was that which

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had been follow'd for the last six weeks, &  
that he had been the Instrument in all this  
Business, I then said why don't you ad-  
vise the King to do this. He answer'd he  
did not choose to do that, as he was afraid  
of appearing to press your Majesty too  
much. I then said that I thought he  
was the proper Person to carry such a  
Message; he said, no; that after what  
had pass'd during the last three weeks,  
if he was to carry such a Message, it  
might look, as if he meant to witness  
such them, or some such Expressions; he  
then added that he thought Lord Hert-  
ford was the proper Person to carry such  
a Message & that he should deliver it  
to the Duke of Grafton; he begged that  
all this might not be said to any one,  
as coming from himself, though he must  
own that it should be convey'd somewhere;  
he was unreasonably private & as it were  
prepared

prepared in His manner of Expression; &  
I was so struck with what had passed  
that I went up again to Him & desired  
Him to put in writing the purport of  
the Message which He desired to have  
sent to Opposition, which He appeared to  
desire, saying it was not necessary for  
that it was a very short one; & then He  
repeated exactly as I have said above;  
I then said I would endeavour to work  
through Mr Robinson, & I have therefore  
told Him all that was said to me.

All this passed with the  
almost civility to Myself, & with the  
appearance of the greatest good Humour;  
& many of His Friends who were near  
Him, appear'd to be in better Spirits &  
good Humour than I have seen them for  
some time.