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Admiralty Dec 31st 1779

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the dispatches received this morning from Sir Thomas Pye, relative to the proceedings of Captain Fieldings Squadron.

He also encloses a paper of intelligence concerning the state of things at Brest which was brought to him ^{yesterday} ~~the~~ morning by a person of very genteel appearance, who promises to continue to give very authentick information of what is going on in the French Ports. His story is that he is in close friendship with an officer in the French service who is an Irishman by birth, but tired of his situation, and a friend to this country.

This
Officer is aid de Camp to a French General now
at St Maloes, & he was formerly aid de Camp
to the rebel General Conway in America.
thro' this officer he proposes to get his intelligence
& what he has already brought he says he
procured by attending him to Brest, disguised
as his servant, which place he left on the
12th instant.

L^d Sandwich doubted this persons intelligence
which he conveyed to him in conversation,
namely, that there was only four or five
of the Spanish ships still remaining at
Brest; but your Majesty will observe that
the same thing is confirmed from another
quarter.

Your Majesty will receive also a private
letter from Mr Robinson to L^d Sandwich, in
answer to one he had written to him from
Blackheath, in which he had very fully
given his opinion with regard to L^d Norths
situation, & to the certainty of his being able
to carry on your Majesty's measures, as long
as you think him deserving your protection.

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Lord Sandwich has not yet had the proposed interview with Mr Robinson.

Lord Sandwich must give your Majesty the trouble of a sealed letter, as he is going to Blackheath & leaves the box with Mr Stephens till the supposed time of your return to the Queens house.

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[Faint, illegible handwriting on the top half of the document, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

*Edmund
Admiralty Dec. 31. 1779.*