

Adml. J. Payne to Col. Geo. Mahon

Mar. 20, 1803

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20 March

My Dear Colonel

I have just reciev'd your letter for
which I offer you my best thanks, & was going
by this post, if your letter had not come, to give
you our news from hence, which agrees with you
our, that war is inevitable & so from
Bonapartes last dispatch to our Government
sufficiently indicated, which I learnt from
undoubted authority, as therein most emphatically
by, says he means to send 20,000 Men into
Holland, & 50 into Switzerland, & that he
will not allow the fleets, which are fitting &
which was intended for the Colonies, but as

Adding tons reason, given, for our armament, was
on that ground, & which for the reason he
furnishes, they do not mean to employ them in
that way, as it may be possible, they shall have
other employment for them. I also heard Lord
Melville, was not to come in, without as he
says, he was quite sure of Mr. Pitts acting
with him in office, & as far as I can gather
from that description of Persons, he will not
enclose you Lord's Venants answer to my offer.
of service to shew the Prince I wish you also
to get a letter from me, to Throckmott, which by what
you say of his Journey, I think he cannot have
received, enclosing one to be shewn to the Prince.

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from Jack Lemon, & do the business for me
instead. I was fearful you were getting wrong
in the House of Commons upon the Porcelain
business, which I was glad to see afterwards
got right, by what I read in the Papers as soon
as you can speak to any thing with precision
I shall trust to your friendly communication
for as you will see by the letter here with sent
that it is necessary for me to know, and
you will be surpris'd at my being so bold
a Man, when there is so much shirking

But recover the letter for me, to avoid its
being improperly us'd, which I think cannot
be the case, as it speaks for peace I enclose
you at the same time a letter from our old
torment, Cockle, which you can use as well to this

advantage as I can justly My Dear Ma
March 24th very faithfully M. W. D.

M. W. D.
March 20. 1803

1803