

Draft
To L^d of Sandwich
Windsor Dec 23. 1781.

Fortescue 3482

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The whole conversation Lord Sandwich states to have past yesterday between Him and M^r Nigby in St. James's Park, is so very different to the language supposed to have been held by that Gentleman for some time, that it cannot but occasion surprise; if he really means to give intelligence to Lord Sandwich he may be the better prepared to have the enquiry into the Navy conducted with propriety, as it is to come on, it should certainly be as full as the nature of it and that proper caution not to grant Papers that may do harm will admit.

I am happy at finding the conduct of the Rancellors was less inimical yesterday than on Thursday evening, I should hope therefore that the impropriety that then appeared arose from temper rather than design.

The report of the Officers of Marines who have examined into the conduct of Lieut. Child certainly authorises the superseding him without the formality of a Court Martial.

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper]