

Draft
to Ad. North
Windsor Dec. 26. 1781
on
Ld. G. G. M.

Duplicate of 4388

4389

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On Sunday Evening, I received from Lord George Germain an application in the name of the Cabinet, that another Commander in Chief might be appointed for North America, to which I returned the following answer.

"The appointing a Commander in Chief in North America is a measure of a complicated nature and requires thorough consideration before I can form an opinion enough digested to be able to state my thoughts to Ld. G. Germain; He may rest assured that it shall be uppermost in my thoughts, and that I shall not allow any unnecessary delay to arise in the determination of a point which must precede the other necessary steps for conducting the War in that part of the Globe".

Having spoke twice fully on the Subject to Ld. North, and having nothing new arise in my mind on it, I chose to let a few days elapse before I desired Ld. North's final Opinion on this Subject. I shall therefore be very short on this occasion; undoubtedly if Sir Guy Carleton can be persuaded to go to America he is every way the best suited for the Service, he and Ld. G. Germain are incompatible; Ld. George is certainly not unwilling to retire, if he gets his object a Peace, no one can then say he is disgraced, and when his retreat is accompanied with the Appointment of Sir Guy Carleton, the cause of it will naturally appear without its being possible to be laid with any reason to a change of Sentiments on the great essential point, namely the getting a Peace at the Expense of a Separation with North America from the Mother Country, which is a step to which no difficulties shall ever get me to be in the smallest degree an Instrument.

If Ld. North agrees with Me that on the whole it is best to gratify the wishes of Ld. G. Germain and let him retire, that no time may be lost,

I desire He will immediately sound Mr. Wilkinson as to his succeeding, & he
for ought to be ready with a successor before I move a single step.

Had Mr. North thought the Office of American Secretary might
cease, it would be easy for Mr. Stormont to conduct the whole foreign
Department, and Mr. Hillsborough to take the American Department
in addition to his remaining branches.