

Ld. North

4491

Downing Street. Friday evening

Sir,

March: 8. 1782.

Mr Pigby has just brought me word  
that Lord Gower had a meeting yesterday  
with the Duke of Grafton, & pass'd above  
an hour with him conversing upon the  
subject on which Your Majesty wished to  
have the Duke's opinion. The result of  
their conference is;

"That, with every inclination & desire  
to promote your Majesty's service, they are  
obliged to declare, that it is not in their  
power to undertake to form, or to recommend  
any <sup>plan</sup> ~~system~~ of administration to your Majesty."

14.  
Your Majesty will understand that  
by "any plan of administration" I mean "any  
set of ministers."

The Duke of Grafton expressed his disap-  
-probation of the violent language held by  
some of the most violent of the opposition,  
but did not think himself qualified to take  
the lead in <sup>forming</sup> any political arrangement.  
Indeed, Sir, I am afraid it will be very diffi-  
-cult to form a mixed system, & I am  
perfectly convinced that, whatever may be  
the event of today, the present Ministry  
can not go on.

The Chancellor is held in such high  
estimation by the opposition, that I should

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think him the most proper member  
of the Cabinet to set any thing on foot  
with Lord Rockingham's party. If L<sup>d</sup>  
Shelburne should be averse to coming in  
with them, which some of his friends think  
probable, Lord Chancellor will be, at  
the of L<sup>d</sup> Rockingham's friends, continued  
in office, & will oppose a firm barrier  
against any <sup>dangerous</sup> ~~that~~ popular measures, which  
I am unincined, the greater part of Lord  
Rockingham's party object to, as much  
as the Chancellor himself, & will be  
glad of his weight, opinion & authority

to resist any persons who may wish to carry  
such measures into execution.

Lord John Cavendish, who is more  
in the confidence of Lord Buckingham  
than any other person, has always openly  
declared his dislike to measures of  
such a nature, & will be a very proper  
person to open a rejoinder with, if  
such a rejoinder is approved.

I have just received the volume  
from Lord Ormskirk, & believe the  
honour of transmitting it to your Majesty  
for your perusal. I beg leave to subscribe  
myself, your Majesty's most obedient  
servant.