

H. Ke. to Ld. Chancellor (See Note over)

Mar. 18 1782

4512

[In the handwriting of Queen Charlotte]

X

The King from a desire of healing the Divisions that greatly obstruct the Wheels of Government, authorised the Lord Chancellor on Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> to find out whether He could not lay before His Majesty any grounds on which an Administration might be formed on a broad basis, by collecting the best of all Parties in point of private Characters and Abilities; but declaring that H. M. had not the smallest intention of changing one Party for another, but to do that which might heal Divisions, and thus enable H. M. if attainable to make Peace with Credit, and if not to prosecute the War with that prospect of Success, which Unanimity can alone effect; by this the King did not in the least point out any Persons who the Lord Chancellor should in preference consult.

The Lord Chancellor though He saw the difficulty, with zeal undertook to do his utmost, the result of which was His conversing with the Marquis of Rockingham, who avowed being able to answer for the different component parts of the Opposition; the Chancellor stated the above and desired Ld. R. would take time to consider of it and consult his friends, this past on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>

On Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> the Marquis came to the Lord Chancellor and said.

- 1<sup>o</sup> The King must not give a Veto to the Independency of America.
- 2<sup>o</sup> The Contractors Bill must be past.
- 3<sup>o</sup> A Bill for disqualifying all Officers of the Customs from the right of voting at Elections.
- 4<sup>o</sup> Mr. Burke's Regulation of the Civil List.

Copy

Of Copies dated March 10<sup>th</sup>  
1782. Supposed to have  
been sent or delivered to  
the Marquis.

If these were granted the Marquis was ready to wait on the King with whom alone  
He could treat on the subject of forming a new Administration.

The whole of these demands were so strange that it can only be looked upon as  
the disinclination of Opposition to give any Assistance to their Country. The King  
feels the indignity offered to His Person by such Propositions and cannot direct any  
farther conversation to be held with the Marquis; but is ready to adopt any Proposition  
that can be formed for widening the present bottom, or forming a new Administration  
on the above extensive Plan; but St. M. cannot offer up his Principles, his Honour  
and the interest of his good Subjects to the disposal of any set of Men.

The King cannot help adding that the whole of the Lord Chancellors  
conduct has met with His Majesty's most entire Approbation.

March 18<sup>th</sup> 1782.