

Ld. North

Mar. 18 1782

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Sir,

Mr Grosvenor today in the House
of Commons desired me to appoint him an
hour tomorrow morning, as he had a matter
of importance to communicate to me, & I have
since learnt from good authority, that it is his
intention to represent to me, in his own name,
& in those of some other Country Gentlemen,
that being now convinced, that the present
Administration can not continue any longer,
they are of opinion that vain & ineffectual

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"struggles tend only to public mischief &
"confusion, & that they shall think it their
"duty henceforward to desist from opposing
"what appears to be clearly the sense of
"the House of Commons." If these gentlemen
persist in this resolution, your Majesty
will perceive, that we shall infallibly be
in a Minority even on Wednesday next, when
the House will be moved in direct terms to
resolve, "that it is their opinion, that the
"management of public affairs ought not to
"be continued in the hands of the present
"Ministers."

When I had the honour of an audience of
your Majesty this morning, I humbly endeavoured
to state to your Majesty my reasons for think-

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4515(2)

ing that the fate of the present Ministry
is absolutely & irrecoverably decided; The
Votes of the Minorities on Friday seven night &
on Friday last contain'd I believe, the genuine
senses of the House of Commons, & I really think
of the Nation at large; Not that I suppose the
minds of men in general exasperated against
the individuals, who compose the Administration,
but they are tired of the Administration collect-
ively taken, & wish, at all events, to see it
alter'd. The torrent is too strong to be resisted;
Your Majesty is well apprized, that, in this coun-
try, the Prince on the Throne can not, with
prudence, oppose the deliberate resolution of
the House of Commons; Your Royal Predecessors
(particularly King William the third, & his late
Majesty) were oblig'd to yield to it much against

their will in more instances than are; they consented
to changes in their Ministry, which they disapproved,
because they found it necessary to sacrifice their
private wishes, & even their opinions to the
preservation of public order, & the prevention of
those terrible mischiefs, which are the natu-
ral consequence of the clashing of two Bran-
ches of the Sovereign Power in the State:
The concessions they made were never deem'd dis-
honourable, but were consider'd as marks of their
wisdom, & of their parental affection for their
people: Your Majesty has graciously & steadily
supported the servants you approve, as long as
they could be supported; Your Majesty has
firmly & resolutely maintain'd what appear'd to
you essential to the welfare & dignity of this
Country, as long as this Country itself thought
proper to maintain it: The Parliament have
alter'd their sentiments, & as their sentiments, whether

4516
just or erroneous, must ultimately prevail, your Majesty having persevered, as long as possible, in what you thought right, ~~you~~ can lose no honour if you yield at length, as some of the most renowned & most glorious of your Predecessors have done, to the opinion & wishes of the House of Commons.

Your Majesty's desire is, I know, to form a Ministry on a broad bottom, & such an arrangement would certainly be the best, but, in the present moment, it is, I fear, not attainable. In consequence of the disposition of the H^o of Commons, a change in the Ministry is become absolutely necessary: There are no persons capable & willing to form a new administration, except Lord Rockingham & Lord Shelburne with their parties, & they will not act with any of the present Ministry but the Chancellor. It follows then that the present Cabinet must be removed, and either one or both

of the before-mentioned parties must compose
the new administration, or, That there will be
no ministry, & the greatest confusion, with
the most pernicious consequences, will prevail
in every part of the Government. It is with
great reluctance, that I presume to advise your
Majesty to send either for Lord Rockingham
or Lord Shelburne, but I should not be an hon-
-est man or a friend to my Country if I did
not advise even that step, ^{rather} than that your
Majesty, being no longer able to retain your
present Ministers, should run the risk of leaving
the nation, at this time, without any admini-
-stration, at the mercy of all the evils &
all the dangers, which are naturally to be
apprehended in such an unsettled state of affairs.

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Your Majesty's goodness encourages me to ~~say~~ my
poor, but honest advice before you, & to submit
whether it will not be for your Majesty's welfare,
& even glory, to sacrifice, at this moment former
opinions, displeasures & apprehensions (though
never so well founded) to that great object
(which is always the uppermost in your
Majesty's heart, & which is at present in a
degree of peril,) The Public Safety.

Your Majesty's future administration,
will be strong with respect to all the great
measures of government, to the obtaining of
supplies, to the conduct of war, & the conclu-
sion of Peace; But, if your New Ministers
should attempt any dangerous innovati-
ons in the constitution, they will, I believe,

meet with a powerful & I hope, a success-
ful opposition.

I have just seen the Lord Chancellor, who in con-
sequence of a note received from your Majesty today
intends to call tomorrow morning upon Lord Shelburne
his sentiments, I believe, agree with mine; He is sorry
that the necessity of the times should oblige your
Majesty to take steps which cannot but be disagreeable
to you, but he seems to think, with me, that no good
purpose can be answered by a further contest. He
desired me to remind your Majesty that he had
never owned to Lord Rockingham his having
mentioned his Lordship's four propositions to
your Majesty, but had always treated them as
inferior & subsequent considerations to be settled
after the formation of a Ministry, & not as conditions
of acceptance; He advises, therefore, that your Majesty
should not appear acquainted with that part of Lord
Rockingham's conversation. I beg leave to subscribe
myself, your Majesty's most dutiful servant &