

Dear Sir

23<sup>d</sup> April 1778,

By this opportunity you will receive draughts of two bills and L<sup>d</sup> North's speech relating them into the house of Commons. I have little doubt myself but that these Bills have long since been clothed with all the formalities of law. If Lord North's speech is genuine, (and I think we have no reason to suspect it to be otherwise) we may fairly conclude that y<sup>r</sup> Administration begin to see the impracticability of reducing these States, or of retaining them, when reduced, in such a state of subordination as to be useful to G<sup>ty</sup>. The heavy & increasing expense of the war, a jealousy of France & Spain, perhaps y<sup>r</sup> apprehensions of an approaching rupture in Germany) about to be occasioned by the death of y<sup>r</sup> Elector of Bavaria, the actual commencement of hostilities between Prussia & the Porte have forced the British Ministry on this measure. However slow, satisfied they will try the arts of negotiation first, in order to divide us if possible, and will hazard another campaign, before they acknowledge the Independence of the States