

ld. Halifax

May 9. 17 1765

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Lord Halifax

Bedford House
Friday Evening
past Twelve o'Clock

Lord Halifax dutifully begs Leave to inform his Majesty of the very disagreeable Secret in which he has been this Day engaged. In the Morning it was known that the Fanatical Mob which had Two Days before menaced the House of Lords, were on their March a third Time. The Duke of Bedford was with great Difficulty prevailed on by his Friends not to attempt making his Appearance in Parliament, as it could not be done without of greatest Danger to his Life, and it was resolved that his Grace having received good Information that his House would be attacked this Afternoon, he should dine at Home rather at Lord Halifax's, where he was engaged. — Lord Sandwich, Lord Halifax & many of their Friends went to the House of Lords, into which they could only find

Entrance by Westminster Hall, thousands
of the mob blocking up the usual avenues
to the House of Lords. — Three Resolutions,
much the same as were made in the House
of Commons at the Time of the Excise ~~business~~
moved by Lord Gower, & passed unanimously.
and his Lordship afterwards moved that a
Committee might be appointed to examine into
the Causes of the outrage, and for & Detention
of the offenders. This Motion likewise passed
unanimously; & the Committee is to sit &
adjourn, as the Lords who compose it shall
think proper from ^{to Time} Time during of adjournment
of Parliament. The House —

Lord Halifax with much concern
now comes to the most serious, and most
interesting Part of his Relation. as he was at
Dinner at Bedford House, the Company was
informed by the Servants that the mob was
in sight; & very soon they appeared in thousands
in Bloomsbury Square. had it not been for
a small Party of fifty Soldiers, which were

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providentially lodged within the Walls of
 Bedford House, Lord Halifax makes no doubt
 but that his Grace's Arms would have very
 soon been levelled with the Ground; and most
 probably his Grace & Company murdered.
 upon the Gates being almost forced, the Party
 was order'd to prime & charge, and being
 drawn up in a Line opposite to y^e Gate,
 it was order'd to be open'd. upon y^e Appearance
 the Mob for some Time drew back; but very
 soon afterwards were more outrageous than
 ever. Every Method was tried to appease
 them, but to no Purpose. by this Time
 the Horse Guards were come, but their
 Appearance had no Effect, but that of
 Insults, Stones, & Brick bats. The Walls
 of Bedford Court yard the Mob began to
 demolish, ^{they} endeavour'd to force their Way
 by the Garden, & other Avenues of y^e House,
 and appear'd on the Walls in great Numbers.
 on this Occasion Justice Welch found it
 absolutely necessary to read the Riot act.

and they were repeatedly told what the
certain Consequences would be of their not
dispersing; but without Effect, upon this
the Horse charged, & soon drove them out
the Square. Some were rode over, & some
run cut, & several of your Majesty's Officers
& Soldiers wounded by Stones & Bricks.

During this Operation some Horse & Foot
arrived, & every Thing is quiet at present;
but they are expected again to night, unless
the Stay of the Troops shall intimidate them.
We hear they are now employ'd in attacking
some Mercenary Houses, for the Protection
of which a Party of Horse is sent.

The first Party was commanded by a Captain
Stewart, whose Conduct cannot be too much
praised. — all the other Officers behaved
with great Courage, & Propriety. — Lord
Strafford has the Pleasure to inform his Majesty
that he has not heard of any Person having
been killed or mortally wounded.

The Troops consisted of a Troop of Life Guards,
a Troop of Horse Guards, & 60 of Lord Ancre's,
& 272 of the Foot Guards.