

*Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to
the Earl of Egremont, dated Madrid,
Dec. 11, 1761. Received Jan. 9, 1762.
Most Secret.*

My Lord,

HAVING answered, in my publick Letter of this Date, so exactly, to all that is contained in your Lordship's most secret one; I only write these few Words to acknowledge it, and to mention, that if I had only signified to the *Spanish* Minister the King's Commands (that a peremptory Refusal to give Satisfaction, in relation to the categorical Answer; or that the not disavowing any Intentions to take Part with our declared Enemies in the present War, would be looked upon by His Majesty as an Aggression on the Part of *Spain*, and an absolute Declaration of War) without, at least, not denying what would be the Consequence of *Spain's* not giving the Answer required; I mean my withdrawing myself from hence; I had reason to apprehend, that, had I waited to make known that Resolution till after General *Wall* had seen his Catholick Majesty, I might have received an Order to go away from hence; whereas, now it is known I had been first commanded by my own Court to take that Step.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

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