

MS North d.23, ff.97-98. Wroxton. 1 November 1758 [transcript]:

My Lord,

I am just return'd from the entertainment at Banbury. All the Corporation were there except Burford and Hill. Burford was not at home when I went to call there this morning, and to enquire after the Health of Mrs Burford who was brought to bed on Saturday last.⁴ I found Hill at home, as I went my rounds to take leave, and press'd him to be at the entertainment by every argument that I could think on. He said, and repeated often, that His voting against me did not proceed from any dislike that He had to see me in the Corporation. That he thought I did the Town a great Honour, etc. That he hoped I would not take amiss what he did in which he thought he conform'd to an old argument that had been made amongst the Members of the Corporation. I represented to him, that as we were good friends, that as he had no displeasure against me, nor I against him, I hoped he would dine with me for fear the world should think we were ill together. But it was all in vain. He persisted in his refusal. He thought he ought not to be at my dinner as he voted against me. His Brethren who had never used him well would laugh at him and abuse him. Many other such sort of things he said, which it was impossible to heat out of his Head, so I [was] forced to give over and dine without him.

We did business today after dinner. We elected Mr [Samuel] Clarson Mayor, Mr Bradford, Chamberlain, and Mr Wise, Alderman. It was his turn, so that I am afraid He must fine again to avoid being Alderman unless he chuses to keep his fine till he is chosen Mayor.

I intended to have spoken to Mr Clarson about deferring the election of a Burgess, but it seem'd so much the opinion of the whole Table, that that business was better deferr'd for Half a year or longer, that Mr Clarson declared himself, that he did not see any reason for hurrying it, and I thought it was unnecessary to speak to him in particular about it.

Mrs Greenall has desired me to let her have the making of the Liveries, but I could not give her any answer, and it appears to me, that it will [be] impossible to come to it without affronting both Bradford and Wyatt.

There are some circumstances relating to the present State of the Borough, which will require us to be watchfull, and which I will communicate to your Lp. in another letter.

By what I can find Mr Lambe will not be at all disagreeable to the Borough.

My duty, etc.

NORTH.

P.S. I do not remember to have told your Lp. in any letter, that upon my arrival here I received an excuse from Mr Wise. Before I leave this place (which I shall

⁴ Mary daughter of Mr Edward Burford, surgeon and apothecary, and Anna Rebecca, baptised 9 November 1758. See J.S.W. Gibson, 'The Three Tuns in the Eighteenth Century', *C&CH* 8.1, 5.