

tomorrow morning early) I must return you a thousand thanks for the splendid and convenient manner in which I have lived.

Shocking news from the K. of Prussia! [Frederick the Great] And surprized too!

*MS North d.23, f.105.* Burlington Street [London]. 16 January 1759 [extract]:

... I wrote to him [Watson, presumably a local steward] this post an order to bespeak my Liveries of Mr Wyatt, and my Hats of Mrs Robins. I have not bespoke my Livery Buttons of Mr Wyatt, because my last were furnish'd by Sansbury. The designs of Mr C----- T----- upon Banbury are talked of at London. At least Mr G. Williams mention'd to Lady Drake that he had heard of them. I have not yet seen him, and do not know his authority. That his intentions are such there is great reason to believe. It behoves us to be watchfull, and to take particular of filling the next vacancy. I am so afraid of delays in the promotion of John Davis that I have desired Mr Legge to recommend him to the Board of Excise, and he has been so good as to undertake it.

*MS North d.23, f.108.* Grosvenor Street. 15 September 1759 [extract]:

... I am sorry to hear of Burford's ill humour. As it is entirely without reason, I should hope it would not be of any long continuance, but I [am] amazed that it has lasted so long. At the time of my Election he did not appear. He was certainly very ill about that time, but by his behaviour since, I am afraid that he was not sorry to have an excuse for absenting himself.

... We were extremely sorry we were obliged to leave Wroxton, and the longer we are here, the greater reason we think we have to regret it.

Lord North's letters continue sporadically into the 1770s, with others from his younger brother Brownlow North, who evidently was resident at Wroxton at the time of the parliamentary by-election of November 1766 (necessitated by Lord North's appointment as joint paymaster-general of land forces) ('The weather is miserably bad. I fear Ld North will have but a wet ride in the Chair'). Although it is beyond the period covered by the Journal, Lord North's own letter and attachment are so relevant to the political scene in Banbury that they deserve inclusion.

*MS North d.24, ff.12-13.* Wroxton. 16 November 1766 [transcript]:

My Lord,

There is a Mr Taylor of Wilscot who complains that he is not invited, but, as he has been in former Lists, and is left out of that drawn up by your Lordship, and as I find against his name, a ? whether it is necessary to invite him again, I have not sent any card to him. The Mayor [John Hill], when he saw the List of Inhabitants of the Town who were to dine with us, mention'd the Keeper, Mr Wheatly and some others whose names were not there. They have been in no former Lists, and the Mayor has not said a word to me abt. them so I have taken