

To the HON. FREDERICK NORTH,¹
Thursday 4 October 1792

Printed for the first time from a photostat of the MS now in the Huntington Library. The MS is untraced until offered by Quaritch, Cat. No. 434 (1930), lot 301 (loosely inserted in a copy of the SH Sale Catalogue of 1842); later acquired by the Huntington Library.

Dated 'Thursd. Oct. 4th' and signed 'Orford'; the only Thursday, Oct. 4th between 1791, when HW became E. of Orford, and 1797 was in 1792.

Address (pasted on the MS, cut down): The Honourable Frederic North at Bushy Park.

Endorsed by North: Orig. letter of my deceased friend the Hon. Horace Walpole after he became Earl of Orford, at the age of 80. F. N.

Thursday, Oct. 4th.

Dear Sir,

YOU have most kindly prevented me,² as I did not know you was returned to Bushy;³ and unluckily, as I was gone to London.⁴ I am still unfortunate, for though very impatient for the honour of seeing you, I have company in the house that detains me a little,⁵ but I will make myself amends as soon as I can—though without intending to forget that you are fifty years younger, and consequently ought not to be too much troubled

With your most obedient servant

ORFORD

1. Hon. Frederick North (1766–1827), brother of the 3d and 4th Earls of Guilford; 5th E. of Guilford, 1817; M.P. Banbury 1792–4. Hannah More wrote in May 1789, 'I sat two hours in the evening with Mr Walpole, who had a pleasant little party. Among others, Frederick North, a very agreeable and accomplished young man: so learned, so pleasant, and with so fine a taste' (William Roberts, *Memoirs of the Life and Correspondence of Mrs Hannah More*, 1834, ii. 157).

2. North's letter is missing.

3. Bushey House, Middlesex, Lady North's house as Ranger of Bushey Park 1771–97 (OSSORY i. 156, n. 40). Her

husband, the 2d E. of Guilford, had died 5 Aug. 1792, and on 4 Oct. her eldest son, 'the Earl of Guilford was introduced to the King for the first time since his coming to the title' (*London Chronicle* 2–4 Oct. 1792, lxxi. 323).

4. HW went to Park Place 24 Sept. 'for a few days' and returned to SH by 30 Sept. (*ante* 20 Sept. 1792, n. 5; BERRY ii. 242). He may have gone to London 1–3 Oct.

5. HW's company may have been Joseph Farington, the painter, for whom HW wrote a letter of recommendation, 4 Oct., to Lord Harcourt (see CHUTE 542).