



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

Miscellaneous works Of The Late Philip Dormer Stanhope, Earl Of Chesterfield

Consisting Of Letters to his Friends, never before printed, And Various
Other Articles

**Chesterfield, Philip Dormer Stanhope of
Dublin, 1777**

XX. Common Sense. Saturday, Jan. 27, 1739. N° 103.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52092](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52092)

ture have, of late, so advantageously employed them. But it therefore becomes more peculiarly the care of every individual; and if, from the reformation only of those follies here mentioned, five or six hundred thousand pounds a year may be saved to the nation, which I am convinced is the case, how incumbent is it upon every one to sacrifice a little private folly to so much public good! It may at least be a reprieve to our trade and manufactures from that ruin which, at best, seems to be too near them; and possibly too the examples of some private people may, at least, shame others, whose more immediate care it ought to be, into some degree of attention to what they have so long seemed to neglect and despise.

 XX.

COMMON SENSE.

 SATURDAY, Jan. 27, 1739. N^o 103.

SIR,

I HAVE lately read, with the greatest satisfaction, the account, printed in our public papers, of the signal victory obtained by his majesty's Hanoverian troops over the Danes*, notwithstanding the great inequality of the numbers, the Danes being at least thirty, and the Hanoverians at most five hundred men; the Danes having moreover the important fortress of Steinhorst to protect, and the counsels of counsellor Wedderkop to direct them.

As

* A more serious account of this transaction, which occasioned a long paper war, and was terminated in 1740 by a treaty with the king of Denmark, is given in the *Farther Vindication of the case of the Hanover Troops*, written by lord Chesterfield and Mr. Waller.

As the best account of this great action is in the Daily Gazetteer of the 25th of December last, which nobody reads, I will, for the satisfaction of the curious, transcribe it from thence.

“ Hanover, December the 12th, O. S. On the 4th
 “ instant a detachment of Hanoverians, consisting of five
 “ hundred men, with two field-pieces, marched to take
 “ possession of the territory of Steinhorst, which belongs to
 “ the privy counsellor Wedderkop, wherein were posted
 “ thirty dragoons in the service of the king of Denmark.
 “ The colonel who commanded the detachment no
 “ sooner arrived, but he sent a lieutenant to the Danish
 “ captain in the castle to acquaint him, that he was come
 “ with orders to take possession of it, and, if he refused,
 “ to turn him out by force. The Danish captain having
 “ answered the lieutenant, that he was commanded to
 “ repel force by force, the two officers had such high
 “ words, that they drew their swords and fought a duel,
 “ in which the Danish captain was killed on the spot,
 “ and the lieutenant mortally wounded. The Hanove-
 “ rian colonel having advanced with his troops in the *in-*
 “ *terim*, to begin the attack, a very smart skirmish en-
 “ sued, wherein several soldiers were killed on both sides.
 “ The Danes then drew up their draw-bridges, and re-
 “ tired into the castle, where they defended themselves a
 “ while ; but the Hanoverians having, by the means of
 “ great hooks, plucked down the bridges, they entered
 “ the castle and took possession of it, by virtue of an in-
 “ strument drawn up by a lawyer, and a scrivener, whom
 “ they had sent for from Hamburg, for that purpose.”

This action is, in my mind, as great an instance of prudence, generosity, magnanimity, and moderation, as any we read of in antiquity. Considering the strength of the castle and the number of the garrison, it was certainly prudent to send no less than five hundred men to attack it. The colonel shews his generosity, in the first place, by sending a very civil message to the commanding officer, to let him know he was come to take possession of the castle, and to turn him out by force, and then the ardor of his courage, by not staying for an answer, but beginning the attack in the *interim*. After he had possessed himself

himself of the fortrefs by his hooks, and other warlike instruments, he declines the right of conquest, which he might undoubtedly have insisted upon, but quiets the possession, by virtue of an instrument prepared by a lawyer and scrivener, whom he had sent for from Hamburg for that purpose.

This important fortrefs, together with the estate about it, I am assured, is worth, as to the *dominium utile*, no less than a thousand pounds a year, and inestimable, as to the *dominium supremum*, as it is a check to the northern powers: but the title being pretty intricate and doubtful, his majesty bought it a pennyworth of the duke of Holstein, the last time he visited his German dominions, paying, I think, no more than thirty thousand pounds for it.

I have met with some timorous people, who apprehend ill consequences from this affair. The king of Denmark, say they, incensed at this treatment, will certainly throw himself into the arms of France, which has, for some time, been endeavouring to engage him, as well as other northern powers, provisionally in her interests, to facilitate her future schemes of power and greatness. Nay, more, say they, the king of Denmark may probably resent this upon Hanover itself, and march a considerable body of troops there; in which case, Hanover will cry out murder, call upon England for help, and we may be obliged to send more fleets to the Baltic, and be engaged in a war upon account of a disputed possession, too inconsiderable even for a law-suit. But those, who talk in this way, are but shallow politicians, and have not an adequate notion of the strength and importance of our foreign dominions, or of the goodness of those troops. On the contrary, it seems evident to me, that the king of Denmark will think twice before he engages in measures disagreeable to that state, whose strength, courage, and conduct, he has of late so sensibly experienced; but, should he take any rash and inconsiderate step, Hanover alone is more than a match for him, and England neither can nor will be engaged in that quarrel; and especially at a time that our expences and fleets are employed, in obtaining ample reparation for our merchants, and future security for our trade, which, it may be, is not quite yet accomplished.

Upon

Upon this occasion, give me leave, sir, to suggest to you my thoughts, upon the lustre and advantage, which England receives from being so happily annexed to his majesty's German dominions, in answer to the vulgar prejudices too commonly entertained against them.

While England was unconnected with any dominions upon the continent, we had only our fleets to prevent and resist insults from other powers; whereas, by our happy union with Hanover, we have a body of above twenty thousand men, most excellent troops, to act whenever we think proper, without the least danger or expence to England, by which too particularly we bridle the north.

The dutchy of Bremen is of infinite advantage to England, as it supplies us with great quantities of linen, both for home consumption, and re-exportation, to the great ease of our linen manufacturers, who would otherwise be obliged to make ten times the quantity they do now.

Hanover may be likewise of use to us by its example, since there cannot be a stronger instance of the advantages arising to a country, from a wise and frugal administration, than the great improvements of that electorate, under the successive governments of his late and his present majesty.

The whole revenues of the electorate, at the time of his late majesty's accession to the throne of these realms, did not amount to more than three hundred thousand pounds a year; and yet, soon afterwards the considerable purchase of Bremen and Verden were made, for above five hundred thousand pounds sterling. Not long after this, the number of troops, in the electorate, was raised much above what it was before thought able to maintain, and has continued ever since upon that high establishment.

Since his present majesty's accession to the electorate, several acquisitions have also been made; and the very last time his majesty visited those dominions, he bought in, at the price of above a hundred thousand pounds, the revenues of the postage of the electorate, which was an hereditary grant to the counts of Platen: and in August last his majesty concluded the purchase, and paid above thirty thousand pounds, for the fortress and estates of Steinhorst. So that upon the whole, notwithstanding that

that the expences for the current service of the year equal, at least, the revenue of the electorate, yet, by a prudent and frugal management, a million sterling at least has been laid out, over and above, in new acquisitions.

If such frugal means had been pursued, we should have been in a better condition than we now are. I cannot help recommending to the administration, here, to follow the example of their German brethren, to have spirit enough to act, and frugality enough to put the nation in a condition of doing it.

I am Sir,

Your humble servant,

ANGLO-GERMANICUS.

XXI.

OLD ENGLAND,

Or the CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL;

By Jeffrey Broad-Bottom, of Covent-Garden, Esq;*

SATURDAY, Feb. 5, 1743. N^o 1.

IT has generally been the custom with our hebdomadal and diurnal authors to preface their works with an account of their birth, parentage, and education, the company they keep, and several other curious particulars relating to their

* The resignation of Sir Robert Walpole was not attended with that total change of men and measures, which had been expected. The Newcastle party kept their ground; and by entering into a private negotiation with Mr. Pulteney and lord Carteret, succeeded in dividing the opposition. Very few of them were taken into the ministry; and lord Chesterfield, who, with several more, were excluded, highly complained of having been sacrificed by their friends, and lost no opportunity of expressing their resentment. This paper was undertaken with that view. It made a great deal of noise, and the supposed author and printer were taken into custody. Lord Chesterfield owned himself repeatedly to his chaplain the present bishop of Waterford, author of the first number; and I think there can be no doubt but that the third came from the same hand.