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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**

LIII. A short character of the president de Montesquieu, by lord
Chesterfield.

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LIII.

A short character of the president de MONTESQUIEU, by
lord CHESTERFIELD*.

ON the tenth of this month, (February 1755) died at Paris, universally and sincerely regretted, Charles Secondat, baron de Montesquieu, and *president à mortier* of the parliament at Bourdeaux. His virtues did honor to human nature; his writings justice. A friend to mankind, he asserted their undoubted and inalienable rights with freedom, even in his own country, whose prejudices in matters of religion and government, he had long lamented, and endeavoured, not without some success, to remove. He well knew, and justly admired, the happy constitution of this country, where fixed and known laws equally restrain monarchy from tyranny, and liberty from licentiousness. His works will illustrate his name, and survive him as long as right reason, moral obligation, and the true spirit of laws, shall be understood, respected, and maintained †.

* This was sent from Bath by lord Chesterfield, on hearing of the death of his friend. It was inserted in the London Evening-Post, but without the name of the author. See *Memoirs*, Sect. VI.

† On the death of the celebrated Mr. de Fontenelle next year, lord Chesterfield likewise sent from Bath the following short account, to be inserted in the same paper. The two nations were then at war with each other. "Letters by this day's Flanders mail bring advice, that on the 9th instant, died at Paris, aged 99 years, 11 months, and 12 days, Mr. Bernard le Bowier de Fontenelle, dean [*doyen* in French, means the oldest member] of the French academy, and of the royal academies of *belles lettres* and of sciences, a member of the royal society of London, and of the royal academy at Berlin. The high reputation he has justly acquired by his writings renders any encomium superfluous."