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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**

Letter I. To The Rev. Mr. Jouneau. Lettre I. A Mr. Jouneau.

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 LORD CHESTERFIELD'S LETTERS.

B O O K I.

 LETTER I.

TO THE REV. MR. JOUNEAU*,

S I R,

THE reading of the letter, you have been so kind as to write to me, gave me great pleasure; it seemed as if you were talking to me yourself, and as if I was in company with the man in the world I most esteem, and whom I most ardently wish to oblige. I would have answered it sooner, had I not spent this week at the bishop of Ely's [Dr. John More], who lives within fifteen miles of this place. I have, in that short time, seen more of the country, which is very pleasant about here, than ever I saw in all my life before.

I continue very close to my studies, which are as yet but Latin and Greek, because the fair, which will be held in ten days, would have interrupted them; but, when that diversion is over, I am to begin with civil law, philosophy, and a little of the mathematics: but as for anatomy, I shall not have an opportunity of learning

* This gentleman descended from a very good protestant family in the isle of Rhé, near La Rochelle, in France. He came over to England, with numbers of his brethren, whom the revocation of the edict of Nantes, in 1685, drove from their native country. He was appointed minister of a French congregation of the church of England in Berwick-street, Soho. Young Mr. Stanhope, afterwards lord Chesterfield, was put under his care by his grandmother, the countess dowager of Halifax; and received from him his first instructions in languages, history, and philosophy. He corresponded with him during his stay at Cambridge, and in his travels to Holland and to France. He always professed

 LETTRES DE MYLORD CHESTERFIELD.

 LIVRE I.

LETTRE I.

A MR. JOUNEAU.

MONSIEUR,

J'AI eu un sensible plaisir en lisant la lettre, que vous avez eu la bonté de m'écrire ; il me sembloit que vous me parliez vous même, et que j'étois dans la compagnie de l'homme du monde que j'estime le plus, & à qui je souhaite le plus ardemment de pouvoir faire plaisir. J'y aurois répondu plutôt, n'eut été que j'ai passé cette semaine chez l'évêque d'Ely, qui demeure à quinze miles d'ici. J'ai, dans ce peu de tems, vu plus de la campagne que je n'avois vu auparavant dans toute ma vie, et qui ici-autour est très agréable.

Je continue bien ferme dans mes études, qui ne sont encore que le Latin et le Grec, à cause que la foire, qui va venir en dix jours, les auroit interrompues, mais après que ce divertissement sera fini, je dois commencer le droit civil, la philosophie, & un peu de mathématiques ; mais pour l'anatomie, je ne la pourrai point apprendre ;

professed the greatest regard and esteem for that worthy man, and gave him repeated tokens of friendship. The six letters, we here give from the originals, are all that were preserved : they shew, at that early period, the manner of thinking and feeling of our amiable nobleman, who was but eighteen years old when that correspondence began.

car,

learning it; for though a poor man has been hanged, the surgeon who used to perform those operations would not this year give any lectures, because it was a man, and then he says the scholars will not come.

I find this college, where I am, infinitely the best in all the university; for it is the smallest, and it is full of lawyers, who have lived in the world, and know how to behave. We have but one clergyman here; and he is the only drunkard in the college. Whatever may be said to the contrary, there is certainly very little debauchery in this university, especially amongst people of fashion; for a man must have the inclinations of a porter to endure it here.

Methinks our affairs are in a very bad way; but, as I cannot mend them, I meddle very little with politics: only I take a pleasure in going sometimes to the coffee-house, to see the pitched battles that are fought, between the heroes of both sides, with inconceivable bravery, and are usually terminated by the total defeat of a few teacups on both sides.

I am afraid I have tired you too much: at least, for fear I should, it is high time I should tell you that I am,

S I R,

Your most humble servant,

Trin. Hall, Cambridge,

P. STANHOPE.

Aug. 22, 1712.

LETTER II.

TO THE SAME.

S I R,

I WOULD not miss the first opportunity of sending you this trifle, which I should be ashamed to do, without assuring you, at the same time, that I wish it was ten times more. I came to town last night, for a few days, and hope it will not be long before I have the pleasure of seeing you. I am,

S I R,

Your most humble servant,

P. STANHOPE.

Sept. 21.

LETTER

car, quoi qu'il y ait eu un pauvre pendu, le chirurgien, qui avoit coutume de faire ces opérations, n'en a point voulu faire cette fois, parce que c'étoit un homme, et alors il dit que les écoliers ne veulent point venir.

Je trouve ce collègue, dans lequel je suis, infiniment le meilleur de toute l'université, car c'est le plus petit, & il est rempli d'avocats, qui ont été dans le monde, & qui savent vivre. Nous n'avons qu'un ministre, qui est aussi le seul yvrogne du collège. Quoi qu'on en dise, il y a fort peu de débauche dans cette université, & surtout parmi les gens de condition; car il faudroit avoir un gout de portefaix ou de crocheteur, pour la pouvoir souffrir ici.

Il me semble que nous sommes fort mal dans nos affaires, mais, ne pouvant les empêcher, je ne mêle guère de politique: seulement je me fais un plaisir d'aller voir quelquefois au café les batailles rangées qui s'y donnent, entre les héros de chaque côté, avec une bravoure inconcevable, et qui ne se terminent qu'après l'entière défaite de quelques tasses de thé des deux côtés.

Je crains de vous avoir déjà trop ennuyé; au moins, de peur de le faire, il est bien tems de vous dire que je suis,

MONSIEUR,

Trin. Hall, Cambridge,

Aug. 22, 1712.

Votre très humble serviteur,

P. STANHOPE.

LETTRE II.

A U M Ê M E.

MONSIEUR,

JE n'ai pas voulu perdre la première occasion de vous envoyer cette bagatelle, ce que j'aurois honte de faire, si je ne vous assurois en même tems, que je voudrois bien que ce fût dix fois autant. Je vins en ville hier au soir, pour quelques jours, & j'espère qu'il ne se passera pas longtems avant que j'aye le plaisir de vous voir. Je suis,

MONSIEUR,

Sept. 21.

Votre très humble serviteur,

P. STANHOPE.

LETTRE