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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 LII. To The Same.

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goes to Paris to look for the graces; I told him where he would find them; if you think I misinformed him, be so good, madam, as to direct him to their abode; at least I dealt honestly with him.

I learn from Berlin, that Voltaire has bid adieu to France for ever, and settled in the new residence of the muses, under the Augustus, and at the same time the Mæcenas of the North; but, it must be confessed, he has shewn more than poetical art in the bargain he has made with that prince; for he has got the chamberlain's golden key, the order of friendship, five thousand crowns down, and as much a year for life, two thousand of which are settled upon his niece, if she survives him. These terms favour more of one of the mountains of Peru, than of the hill of Parnassus. He has already acted his Cicero there, by way of an appeal from the poetical tribunal of France to that of Berlin, and your decree has been reversed; but you have so many wits at Paris, that you will not miss him. The very ladies supply the loss of him. Madame de Graffigny's pathetic play * is excellent in its kind, and I assure you madame du Boccage's † Milton has great merit. She has abridged it considerably, but with judgment; and her translation of Pope's Temple of Fame is amazingly accurate. Good night, madam.

L E T T E R LII.

TO THE SAME.

Bath, Nov. 5, O. S. 1750.

OUR last letters, madam, have crossed each other. I received yours two days after I had sent mine, so that my vindication was on the road at the same time as my accusation. This, therefore, shall only contain my thanks for taking notice of my silence, which neither merited your regret nor your reproaches.

That

* The comedy of *Cenie*, which was uncommonly well received at Paris, and might have been equally so in London, if it had not been greatly altered for the worse in the translation under the title of *Eugenia*.

† That amiable lady, whose poetical talents are sufficiently known, was then just returned from a trip she had taken over England and Holland, accompanied by her husband, a gentleman of great knowledge and merit.

Paris; je lui ai mandé où il les trouveroit, si vous croyez que je m'y suis trompé, ayez la bonté, madame, de lui indiquer leur demeure, au moins j'en ai agi de bonne foi avec lui.

J'apprends de Berlin que Voltaire a dit un adieu perpétuel à la France, et s'est établi dans le nouveau séjour des muses, sous l'Auguste, et en même tems le Mécène du Nord; mais il faut avouer aussi, qu'il a montré plus que de l'art poétique dans le marché qu'il a fait avec ce prince; car il a la clef d'or de chambellan, l'ordre de l'amitié, cinq mille écus d'entrée, et autant de rente viagère, dont deux mille, en cas de sa mort, sont substituées sur sa nièce. Ces conditions sentent plus une des montagnes du Pérou, que celle du Parnasse. Il y a déjà joué son Ciceron par appel, comme d'abus, du tribunal poétique de la France à celui de Berlin, et votre arrêt y a été cassé; mais vous avez tant de beaux esprits à Paris, que vous ne vous sentirez pas de la perte de celui-ci. Les dames même vous en dédomnagent. La comédie pathétique de madame de Graffigny est excellente, dans ce goût-là, et le Milton de madame du Boccage a, je vous en assure, beaucoup de mérite. Elle l'a beaucoup abrégé, mais avec jugement; et sa traduction du Temple de la renommée de Pope est d'une exactitude étonnante. Bon soir, madame.

LETTRE LII.

A LA MÊME.

A Bath, ce 5 Nov. V. S. 1750.

NOS dernières lettres se sont croisées, madame. J'ai reçu la vôtre deux jours après avoir envoyé la mienne; de façon que ma justification trottoit en même tems que mon accusation. Celle-ci ne sera donc qu'un remerciement de l'attention que vous avez bien voulu faire à mon silence, qui ne méritoit pas vos regrets, ou vos reproches.

Ce

merit. Seven years after, she took another journey to Italy, and stayed several months in Rome, where she was received and caressed by the late pope Lambertini and his worthy friend cardinal Passionei, as she had been in London by the judges of genius and wit, and in particular by lord Chesterfield. The interesting account of her expedition, which was published by herself at Paris, was since translated into English, and printed at London in 1770.