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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 LVIII. To The Same.

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LETTER LVIII.

TO THE SAME.

London, Feb. 25, O. S. 1751.

NOBODY in the world, besides yourself, knows how to combine the true and solid duties with the ornamentals of friendship. Others, from selfish motives, too often sacrifice the former to the latter; they suppress what they ought to say, for fear of saying what will displease, though it be ever so necessary it should be known. You, madam, on the contrary, acquit yourself of the true duties of friendship, by unfolding the truth, be it ever so unpalatable, rather than suffer your friend to remain ignorant of an evil, which, perhaps, may be remedied now, but, in a short time, might become incurable. In the picture you have sent me, which I am certain is very like the original, there are some strokes that shock me exceedingly, and quite disfigure the whole, though some of the features are good. I am sadly afraid it will be a hard matter to mend the original, since you have hitherto lost your labour, and I have laboured incessantly at it for these three years, and as it appears without success. I again send him a very strong letter on that subject, by this post *, and, as I would not have you appear in it, or set him against you, which would be losing the only remedy I have any hopes from, I tell him, that at the same time as I received a letter from you, which was much to his credit, I received a very different account of him from a friend at Paris; and then I pretend to send him an extract of that friend's letter, which contains his own picture, drawn from the hints you have given me; and I conclude with the strongest remonstrances, which I am sure he will not shew you. The better to put him upon a wrong scent, and to enable you to speak more strongly to him upon the subject, I tell him I have sent you a copy of that picture, that you may tell me sincerely whether it is like or not.

* There is no letter of this date in the collection just mentioned; that which comes nearest to it, as containing an extract of a letter received from an impartial and discerning friend, is dated three weeks before, viz. February 4, O. S. but it differs in many particulars.

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