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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 LX. To The Same.

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## L E T T E R L X.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, May 23, O. S. 1751.

**Y**OURS is an excellent principle, madam, to answer speedily when one can answer agreeably, and the practice is easy to you; but it is not so to others, who often have only the will, whereas you always have the power. Hence it follows, that you will always write soon, and from choice; I but seldom, and from duty. Your second letter, which came yesterday, before I had answered the first, now calls upon me for the performance of this duty.

How I envy you in your visit at \* \* \* which I know, by experience, must be a delightful one! If I were but as young as the amiable master of that charming abode, I would take post, and come and surprize you there. Lady Hervey, who has lately enjoyed the sweets of that society, tells me wonders of it; wonders, I mean, that are no wonders to me, who am so well acquainted with most of the performers, and chiefly with the part you act. But alas! it is my hard lot to feel the whole force of temptations, and not to have power to yield to them; for after all, it is a sign of weakness not to give way. Pleasures are but too thinly scattered: reason bids us seize them, weakness or laziness is all that hinders us from complying. I speak of innocent pleasures and temptations, and not of crimes, as you may well imagine. Instead of those pleasures, which have forsaken me, and which I think no more of, unless I could procure them to others, I am going next week to partake of the little amusements of *Babiole*, that is, to walk about, to do one odd thing or other in my garden, and to nurse my pine-apples and melons; for I mean to excel in these two articles. Excuse a little false wit, for I must tell you that the *Menagianas*, the *Scaligerianas*, and all those kind of *Anas*, are not to compare to my *Ananas*. As for my melons, they are arch-melons; by dint of culture and art, I bid defiance to our climate, and raise such delicious melons, that if it were practicable to serve you as the emperor of the moon is served, upon the

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