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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**

Notes Of Section V.

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NOTES OF SECTION V.

[1] CASE of the Hanover forces, &c. p. 50, 51.

[2] Ibid. p. 45. 48.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Apology for a late resignation, p. 13.

[5] Case of the Hanover forces, p. 53.

[6] Apology, &c. p. 9.

[7] Ibid. p. 12.

[8] “ Abbé de la Ville had abilities, temper, and industry. We could not visit, our two masters being at war; but the first time I met him at a third place, I got somebody to present me to him; and I told him, that though we were to be national enemies, I flattered myself we might, however, be personal friends. Two days afterwards, I went early to solicit the deputies of Amsterdam, where I found abbé de la Ville, who had been before hand with me; upon which I addressed myself to the deputies, and said smilingly, *I am very sorry, gentlemen, to find my enemy with you; my knowing of his capacity is already sufficient to fear him: we are not upon equal terms, but I trust to your own interests against his talents; if I have not had this day the first word, I shall at least have the last.* They smiled; the abbé was pleased with the compliment, and the manner of it. He stayed about a quarter of an hour, and then left me to my deputies, with whom I continued upon the same tone, though in a very serious manner; that I was only come to state their own true interests to them, plainly and simply, without any of those arts which it was necessary for my friend to make use of to deceive them. I carried my point, and continued my *procédé* with the abbé; and by this easy and polite commerce with him at third places, I often found means to fish
“ out

“ out from him whereabouts he was.” Lord Chesterfield’s Letters to his son, letter CCLVIII. See likewise letter CCXCII. where he adds very judiciously, “ There is not “ a more prudent maxim than to live with one’s enemies “ as if they may one day become one’s friends, as it com- “ monly happens, sooner or later, in the vicissitudes of “ political affairs.”

[9] “ The abbé de la Ville and I were at once friends “ and enemies at the Hague; and it was not our fault if “ we had not a peace four years ago.” Letter of lord Chesterfield, dated March 12, 1749, see book I. Lett. XXXIV.

[10] That this was the common opinion among the people is sufficiently acknowledged in all the histories of the times; and the famous Rouffet is said to have been the principal promoter of that report. See *Vaderländische Historie*, vol. XX. p. 32, 33.

[11] When the duke of Cumberland was appointed to this command, he was only considered as the nominal commander, on account of his inexperience and great youth. Marshal Königseg was in reality the commander in chief, as he was then called *à latere*.

[12] Examination of the conduct of the two Brothers, &c. p. 29.

[13] The following anecdote I received from the bishop of Waterford. In consequence of the plan that had been concerted, as soon as the siege of Tournay was begun, lord Chesterfield received a letter from marshal Königseg the Austrian commander, acquainting him, that such a day the confederate army were to *move*, which was the word that had been agreed upon between them to express the intended attack. His excellency, upon receiving this letter, waited on the States General, to acquaint them with the contents. He mentioned the same day at his table the news of the approaching action. Three officers were present, who, upon hearing this, as soon as dinner was over, set out immediately for Flanders, and arrived at Fontenoy the day before the battle was fought; and one of them, the son of Sir John Vanbrugh, was wounded in the action by a ball, which was quite flattened on the side that struck against his thigh-bone, and yet, what is remarkable, without breaking it. This extraordinary particular was communicated by a friend, who saw and

examined the ball after the surgeon had extracted it from the wound, of which this ingenious and promising officer died a few days after the battle.

[14] Copy of a letter from lord Bolingbroke to Sir Everard Fawkner, secretary to his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, dated Battersea, May 14, 1745.

DEAR SIR,

YOU have had letters, I doubt not, on the late unfortunate event from all your friends who are in the world; it is time, therefore, that you should hear on the same occasion from one who is out of it. You know that no one can take a warmer part than I do in all that concerns the interest and honour of this country. Neither a long proscription, nor losses, nor mortifications of every kind, can make me indifferent to them. The sentiment is natural and habitual too in me. The disappointment of his royal highness before Tournay, and the loss of so many brave men, grieve me to the soul. I call it a disappointment, for the duke, the British, and the Hanoverian troops cannot be said properly to have been defeated. The common cause suffers, but our national honour is advanced; and that of the young hero you serve, rises above all the examples we have had since our black prince and Henry the fifth. There is comfort in these considerations for the past, and hope for what is to come. The courage and conduct he shewed in the action, make him an object of admiration to all the world, and the compassionate tears he shed after it, gave them a new lustre in my sense. Both one and the other endear him to the people among whom he was born, for whom he fights, and for whom he feels.—God prosper him! I was sorry that your hurry of business and my retired life, hindered me from embracing you at your departure. But wherever you go, my best wishes accompany you, and every affectionate sentiment that can flow from the heart of one who is, dear sir,

Your sincere friend,

and most obedient humble servant,

BOLINGBROKE.

[15] Conduct

[15] Conduct of the two Brothers, p. 42.

[16] The great share which the Irish brigade had in the success of the day was fully ascertained by one of their most respectable countrymen, colonel Dromgold. He published two letters in French, on purpose to expose the fallacious account given by Voltaire, in his poem on the battle of Fontenoy; a poem which lord Chesterfield, notwithstanding his partiality to the author, very wittily ridiculed in one of his French letters. See book I. lett. XIV. of this collection.

[17] Both the speech and the letter will be inserted in this volume.

[18] Lord Chesterfield was one of them, as lord lieutenant of Ireland and privy-counsellor.

[19] This conquest was certainly of great importance, and in the end procured peace; but it was magnified to such a degree, that the noble duke, then at the head of the admiralty, declared, *that if France was master of Portsmouth, he would hang the man who should give up Cape Breton in exchange of it.* Apology for a late Resignation, p. 14.

[20] Ibid p. 13.

[21] Second Series of Facts and Arguments, &c. p. 39.

[22] Ibid. p. 43. 45.

[23] Ibid. p. 44.

[24] Lord Chesterfield alluded to the raising of these regiments in his humorous petition to the king, re-printed at the end of the collection of letters to his son, "Your petitioner raised sixteen companies of one hundred men each, at the public expence, in support of your majesty's undoubted right to the imperial crown of these realms."

[25] Letter CCLXXIV.

[26] From the bishop of Waterford's letters, who adds the following circumstance. "A person, when he was in this kingdom, asked him one day, how he could go through so much business; and received this answer, *because I never put off to to-morrow what I can do to-day.*"

[27] From the same.

[28] It will be found among his lordship's miscellaneous pieces.

[29] A zealous protestant, thinking to pay his court to the lord lieutenant, came to inform him, that one of his coachmen was a Roman catholic, and privately went to mass. *Does he indeed?* said his lordship; *well, I will take care he shall never carry me there.*

[30] The dean's famous letters under that name are sufficiently known.

[31] An instance of his lordship's calmness and presence of mind on this occasion has been given me by the bishop of Waterford. "I cannot, says he, forbear to mention a pun of his lordship's, which shews his quickness at repartee, and that he had the best informations of the dispositions of the Roman catholics, and was not afraid of them. The vice-treasurer, Mr. Gardiner, a man of a good character and a considerable fortune, waited upon him one morning, and in a great fright told him, that he was assured, upon good authority, that the people in the province of Connaught were actually rising. Upon which lord Chesterfield took out his watch, and with great composure answered him, *It is nine o'clock, and certainly time for them to rise; I therefore believe your news to be true.*"

[32] The following information, which gives a singular instance of lord Chesterfield's vigilance in his viceroyalty, has been communicated by the bishop of Waterford. It is given in the words of the gallant and active captain Mercer, from whom the information comes

In the year 1745, captain Mercer was ordered to convoy the earl of Chesterfield from Holyhead to his government of Ireland, where he landed on the 31st of August. In November following, a large fleet of East India-men arrived in the harbour of Galway, where his excellency and the commissioners thought proper to send down a number of revenue officers, to prevent smuggling. On which occasion most of captain Mercer's crew and officers were sent on that service by land, and his vessel unrigged and laid up. But lord Chesterfield having received letters from Belfast, in the county of Antrim, that the rebels had taken possession of Glasgow; and that there were three or four hundred boats assembled off Air, Irwin, and Salt Coats, which were but a small distance from the Irish coast, people were much alarmed, lest an invasion

vasion was intended, and hoped for some assistance by sea. Their fears were so great, that they were even burying their linen, plate, &c. under ground; and no men of war being then on the Irish coast, his excellency sent for captain Mercer late at night, and informed him of the melancholy accounts he had received; and that he knew of no means which could so speedily ease the people's minds as his sailing directly to Belfast, to find out the design of that large fleet of boats, and to give the natives every consolation and assistance in his power. Captain Mercer told his excellency, that his ship was unrigged, his officers and crew at Galway, and that he had no method of sailing but by shipping a new crew, which must be done by approbation of the board of revenue. Lord Chesterfield, though it was then very late at night, had Mr. Gray, one of the commissioners, raised out of bed to give the necessary orders, and afterwards hoped captain Mercer would be equipped in a few days. Immediately captain Mercer, with the few men he had left and some assistants, began to rig his ship and get provisions on board, and the next morning was so lucky as to have shipped a compleat crew, when he waited upon his excellency, to inform him he was ready to sail, and only waited his commands; which were, to gain every intelligence of the rebels motions, and to deliver dispatches from the lords of the admiralty to two sloops of war, commanded by the captains Duff and Knowell, which were cruising between the Clyde and the isle of Man, to prevent spirits or any other liquors going from thence to the rebels. He was fortunate enough to fall in with them the next day, and then stood over to the coast of Scotland, where he discovered that the fleet of boats, which had so much alarmed the people on the Northern coast of Ireland, were only fishing for herrings. This intelligence, in a great measure, dissipated their fears, and captain Mercer continued on that station till the spring of the year, giving lord Chesterfield every intelligence he could receive by keeping up a correspondence with general Campbell, father to the present duke of Argyll, who arrived soon after with a frigate of war and two transports laden with arms and money, to raise and pay the Argyllshire militia.

In the month of April, the rebels quitted the west of Scotland, and captain Mercer was ordered to convoy his excellency the earl of Chesterfield to Chester, where, soon after their landing, they received intelligence of the duke of Cumberland having totally defeated the rebels at Culloden.

Captain Mercer commanded at that time a small frigate of ten guns and fifty men, in the service of the revenue.

[33] Rolt's History of the last War.

[34] Chiefly from the bishop of Waterford's information.

[35] By that act, all popish estates, at the death of the late popish possessor, are divided in equal parts, share and share alike, among his popish relations who are the nearest of kin, if they all continue in their religion; but if one of them turn protestant, he becomes the heir at law. As lord Chesterfield approved of that act, I cannot help thinking that even he himself was not absolutely free from all prejudices on that subject.

[36] Lord Chesterfield's letters to the bishop of Waterford, book III, letter XXXI.

[37] Ibid. book III, letter XXI.

[38] From private information of the bishop of Waterford.

[39] The following fact, which may be depended upon, is a proof of this assertion. A very considerable gentleman of the county of Kerry, and member of parliament, was indebted to a neighbouring tradesman, who had frequently applied to him for the payment of his just demand. The tradesman going one day to the gentleman's house to renew his application, the latter ordered his servants to tie him to the pump and horsewhip him. These orders were obeyed with the utmost severity. The poor man came up to Dublin with his complaints to the lord lieutenant, who immediately directed a special commission of oyer and terminer to repair to that county and try the cause; the consequence of which was, that the gentleman was fined in a very heavy penalty.

[40] This young nobleman died of the small-pox at Paris, to the inexpressible regret of his mother, who, to the day of her death, never forgave herself not having had him inoculated.

[41] To

[41] To her was addressed a copy of verses by Mr. Jones a bricklayer, who had complimented lord Chesterfield on his arrival at Dublin, and now took occasion of her ladyship's obtaining a pardon for two deserters, to pay his respects to her.

[42] Stanhope each purpose of his breast
To gen'rous views consign'd;
And chose his method to be blest,
By blessing all mankind.

Stanhope, though high thy transports glow,
To one false step descend;
Or you'll incur the dang'rous woe
Of him whom all commend.

[43] Lord Chesterfield, in a letter he wrote to the duke in the beginning of 1746, expressed himself in this remarkable manner: "As Scotland has been the *cradle*, I most earnestly wish and hope it will become the *grave* of the rebellion, under the auspicious command of your royal highness."

[44] Lord Chesterfield did not join with the ministers in this measure; for though he was very much attached to his friends in administration, he knew his duty to his sovereign, in the station he then filled, too well to have taken so unjustifiable a step. After his lordship was become secretary of state, and was in some measure restored to his former intercourse with his old master; the king, talking of what had passed, and in particular complaining of the ill treatment of his ministers at that time, took occasion to ask his lordship in a kind manner, whether he would have continued in his service if lord Granville had not given up the seals. To this lord Chesterfield very candidly replied, "Sir, nothing should have tempted me to have quitted your majesty's service while I was in Ireland, and a rebellion raging in your dominions. I think you might have very justly tried me by martial law for quitting my post. It is certainly true, sir, that it was my resolution, as soon as I returned to your majesty's presence, to beg your permission to quit your service." This frank declaration was so far

far from displeasing the monarch, that he graciously said, "My lord, I was always sure you would act like a man of honour."

[45] The rev. Mr. Codere, minister of the French chapel in Berwick-street.

[46] Letters to his son, letter LXXVI.

[47] French letters in this collection, book I. letter XIV.

[48] The character which lord Chesterfield gave to a female correspondent of that gentleman's qualifications (*Ibid.* let. XIV.) shews sufficiently the impropriety of the choice. We shall have opportunities of adding some touches to the picture.

[49] Letters to his son.

[50] An instance of this happened soon after our earl was appointed secretary of state. One of the greatest places had been allotted by the reigning minister to a person whom the king particularly disliked. He refused to consent to the nomination, and he did it in so peremptory a manner, that none of the members of the cabinet dared to speak to him any more about it. Lord Chesterfield was desired to undertake it; and one morning he waited upon the king with the commission ready to be filled up. As soon as he mentioned the name, the monarch angrily refused, and said, *I would rather have the devil.* With all my heart, replied the earl, I only beg leave to put your majesty in mind, that the commission is indited *to our right-trusty and right well-beloved cousin.* This sally had its effect; the king laughed, and said, *My lord, do as you please.*

[51] Apology, &c. p. 22.

[52] Lord Harrington had lost all credit with the king from the time he had joined in the resignation with the rest of the ministers; and his majesty finding the opportunity favourable to his wishes, was determined to get rid of him. He carried his resentment so far, that it was with the utmost difficulty Mr. Pelham and the rest of the administration could prevail on his majesty to suffer him to succeed lord Chesterfield as lord lieutenant of Ireland.

[53] Apology, &c.

[54] *Ibid.*

[55] Letters to his son, letter LXXXIV.

[56] The

[56] The profit he made is humorously stated in one of his letters to the bishop of Waterford. "I can assure you, I got five hundred pounds clear upon the whole."

[57] Conduct of the Two Brothers, &c. p. 48. In the sequel to that pamphlet, which like the former came from a Granvillian and a well informed author, the same thing is repeated with the following insinuation. "In plain English, one cannot help supposing that it was partly in compliment to H. R. H. the duke that the resolution was taken to prolong the war, and that as he had not the honour of commanding the allies this year, we conived at the losses of it, and kept our strength in reserve, to render him so much the more illustrious, by the efforts of the next."—*Second Series*, p. 46.

[58] The letter is dated Breda, Nov. 20, 1746, and signed Wassenaer. "Dans le moment le comte de Sandwich sort de chez moi, ou il a eu la bonté de venir m'apprendre une nouvelle, qui en tout tems, mais surtout dans la circonstance présente ne peut que me causer une joye inexprimable. J'ai vû, milord, avec la plus agréable surprise au bas de ses dépêches le nom de l'homme que je respecte, que j'admire, et permettez moi de trancher le mot que j'aime le plus, le nom de Chesterfield—M. le conseiller pensionnaire (Gilles) à qui ja'i eu le plaisir d'en apprendre la premiere nouvelle, m'en a temoigné son extrême contentement, et sent comme moi toute l'influence que vôtre heureuse entrée dans le ministere doit avoir, sur les affaires du tems—Jamais la situation de la republique ne fût plus déplorable. Son état politique et militaire, celui de ses finances, vous est parfaitement connu. Nous sommes peut être à la veille d'être bouleversés, si l'Angleterre nôtre meilleure et nôtre plus fidèle alliée, et la plus interessée à nôtre existence, ne prévient notre ruine: le tems est infiniment précieux; daignez, mylord, employer tous vos soins et vos efforts pour nous faire parvenir au grand but qui nous rassemble ici: le plaisir inexprimable d'avoir rendu le repos à l'Europe sera vôtre récompense, et vôtre nom sera en bénédiction à tous les peuples. Nous aurons en particulier la satisfaction de devoir notre bonheur à l'ami de la republique."

[59] Apo-

[59] Apology, &c. p. 27.

[60] Ibid. p. 26.

[61] Lord Chesterfield had ever shewn great friendship for that gentleman, who was very much attached to his lordship.—He took him over to Ireland, and gave him the office of black rod, during the time of his residence there.

[62] Conduct of the two brothers, p. 60, 61.

[63] Vaderlandsche historie, vol. XX. p. 105.

[64] Conduct, &c.

[65] Apology, &c. p. 29.

[66] The king of France's expression is said to have been, "He! Bien Monsieur de Ligonier, quand est ce que le roy votre maitre nous donnera la paix?—Well, general Ligonier, when will the king your master grant us peace?"

[67] He was the only minister in the cabinet who had, upon principle, contended for the necessity of coming to a speedy accommodation, *Second series*, &c. p. 48. Nothing could be more honourable to lord Chesterfield than this testimony from a rival, whom he had contributed to remove.

[68] Though this expression was borrowed from the object of lord Chesterfield's strongest passion, it must be observed to this honour, that he strictly kept to the rule which he had dictated to himself in Ireland, and never played till he was out of the ministry.

[69] Vaderlandsche historie, vol. XX. p. 159, 160.

[70] Letter to Mr. Dayrolles.

[71] Vaderl. hist. *ibid.*

[72] See lord Chesterfield's French letters in this collection.

[73] Examination, &c. p. 70.

[74] Apology, &c. p. 35, 36.

[75] This gentleman had held conferences before that time with lord Ligonier while in Flanders, and his lordship was directed by the English ministry to desire him to repair to London in the most secret manner.

[76] Apology, &c. p. 37—44. See likewise the other pamphlets which I have quoted before, and which were published by writers perfectly well informed.

[78] In

[77] In a manuscript letter to Dr. Birch, dated Therfield, Nov. 28, 1748, I find some interesting particulars, which the author had from Mr. Horace Walpole, with whom he was very intimate. “ I met my great and good
 “ friend Mr. Walpole on the road, and have had a voluminous correspondence this summer with him—You
 “ shall have a few broken hints.—I think I have informed
 “ you of my perusing Mr. Walpole’s letters or rather
 “ memorials to the duke, and a very ample one to the
 “ duke of Newcastle. You have seen the answer to bishop Sherlock’s colours and excuses for continuing the
 “ war last year, and his absurd notion of France, which
 “ I represented and enforced in order to provoke him to
 “ this work. It has been communicated to several persons
 “ of distinction. Chesterfield was eager for its being
 “ printed. But though Mr. Walpole is willing to give salutary instructions and informations, he abhorreth all
 “ public offence. Though Mr. Walpole’s papers contradicted the king’s and the duke’s humour, H. R. H. was
 “ not offended with the address, but only on hearing they
 “ had been imparted to others. However, Mr. Walpole
 “ had a conference of more than two hours with the
 “ duke. H. R. H. was prepared, and managed with
 “ great art. As it was principal, I will only mention
 “ what passed relative to Prussia. Mr. Walpole strongly
 “ insisted on this power being gained, and observed how
 “ improper and faint all attempts had been. As the necessity was plain and pregnant, all who had access and
 “ interest with the king should talk in this absolute pressing
 “ strain. This was done in a less considerable instance.
 “ When Granville became intolerable and impracticable,
 “ all the ministers were absolute and peremptory. The
 “ duke replied with resentment, that he hoped never again
 “ to see his royal father have such usage. Mr. Walpole rejoined what he suggested might be done strongly and
 “ decisively, without giving offence. In order to draw the
 “ real attention and confidence of Prussia, the affair should
 “ be communicated to parliament. This would be popular, and produce the strongest votes. When his having
 “ been a little too forward and busy was insinuated,
 “ Mr. Walpole let him know that persons well affected and
 “ of consequence would have brought it into parliament,
 “ had

" had it not been for his interposition." Mr. Walpole re-
 " presented the sure and speedy conquests the French
 " might make of the continent. What then would be-
 " come of all his family? Every one would be for mak-
 " ing their own compositions, and the rather as this was
 " the effect of a known aversion to Prussia. The duke
 " then mentioned Sir E. Fawkener's being sent. Mr.
 " Walpole said, the minister was not so material as the
 " previous assurances and instructions. But he afterwards
 " took occasion three times to inculcate H. R. H. going
 " in person; and added, the affair would be thus com-
 " pleted at Berlin in 24 hours. It could not be, or si-
 " lence was the answer. Villiers, who is an able minis-
 " ter, by Granville's advice, refused to go. Chesterfield's
 " last work was to draw up Legge's instructions; they
 " were excellent. What alterations have been made I
 " know not. Legge, that his errand might not be infig-
 " nificant, has ventured to make offers, which have given
 " offence."

[78] Mr. George Stanhope, brother to earl Stanhope, had a regiment.

[79] Letters to Mr. Dayrolles.