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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 II.

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## NOTES OF SECTION II.

[1] **T**HE death of Lewis XIV. happened the beginning of September 1715, while an enterprize was on foot in favour of the pretender

[2] “ If milder measures had been pursued, certain it is, that the tories would never have universally embraced jacobitism. The violence of the whigs forced them into the arms of the pretender.” So says lord Bolingbroke. See letter to Sir William Wyndham, p. 86, 87.

[3] See the debates in the house of commons, vol. VI. Though these parliamentary journals, as well as the proceedings of the house of peers, are destitute of sufficient authority to authenticate all the particulars of the speeches; yet as those persons who were principally concerned have not disowned them, they may be quoted as being upon the whole not very defective. This speech of lord Chesterfield was delivered on the 5th of August 1715; and as we know from himself, that he spoke a month (or rather six weeks) before he was of age, the date mentioned in the beginning is sufficiently ascertained. The bishop of Waterford’s account of this transaction differs in a few particulars of no great importance. I had this, I think, from unquestionable authority.

[4] A person under the age of twenty-one years cannot be elected to sit in parliament; the election is void; and for sitting and voting in the house of commons, the forfeit is £. 500. Jacob’s Law Dictionary.

[5] See the humorous account he gives of this noviciate in letter CLXXXI. to his son, vol. I.

[6] John Dalrymple, earl of Stair, a nobleman equally eminent for his activity, spirit, and abilities, in the cabinet and in the field.

[7] See

[7] See the French letter of the earl of Stair to secretary Craggs, printed in the same volume with lord Bolingbroke's letter to Sir William Wyndham, London, 1753. A friend assures me, that the circumstances contained in this letter relative to the pretender may be depended upon. I cannot help suspecting that the remarkable words of bishop Atterbury, when, on being put on shore at Calais, and hearing that lord Bolingbroke, who had just obtained his pardon, was arrived there on his way to England, he said, *Then we are exchanged*, conveyed an insinuation that his lordship was rewarded for the informations procured of the conspiracy for which the bishop suffered.

[8] This appears from the following anecdote which I owe to the bishop of Waterford, who had it from his noble patron. "During the time of the debates on the Excise Bill, the queen endeavoured to persuade lord Stair not to be concerned in the opposition. She told him that she wished, for his sake, that he would not meddle with politics, but would confine himself to the affairs of the army, as being a better judge of them: to which he answered; Madam, if I had not meddled with politics, I should not now have the honour of paying my respects to you; hinting, by this, that her majesty owed the crown to his conduct when ambassador at Paris during the time of the rebellion in 1715."

[9] See the earl of Stair's second memorial presented to the regent after the pretender's return to Paris.

[10] In the year 1694, the 6th of William and Mary.

[10<sup>a</sup>] Letters to his son, vol. II. p. 245.

[11] He even thought a period of seven years too short for Ireland, and expressed himself to the bishop of Waterford in the following manner. "You are all wild about elections in Ireland, and wait, it seems, to have all the ill-blood, expence, and riot, which they occasion, renewed every seven years. I wish you would be quiet, for I prophecy that you will get no good by your politics."

[12] "That shameful method of governing, which had been gaining ground insensibly ever since Charles II. has, with uncommon skill and unbounded profusion,

"fusion,

“ fusion, been brought to a degree of perfection, which,  
 “ at this time, dishonours and distresses this country,  
 “ and must, if not checked (and God knows how it can  
 “ now be checked), ruin it.”

[13] Letters to his son, *ibid.* Lett. LXXXIX.

[14] The prince was offended that at the christening of his son the duke of Newcastle stood as Godfather; and he expressed his resentment in such a manner as drew upon him his father's indignation. The prince often told lord Chesterfield, “ That little things affected him more  
 “ than great ones; and he was often put so much out of  
 “ humour, at his private levee, by a mistake or blunder  
 “ of a *valet de chambre*, that the gaping croud admitted to  
 “ his public levee would, from his looks and silence, have  
 “ concluded, that he had just received some dreadful  
 “ news. Tacitus, added his lordship, would always have  
 “ been deceived by him ”

[15] A much more distant relation; for he was descended from Sir John Stanhope, father of the first earl of Chesterfield, by a second wife. He was employed under this reign as envoy-extraordinary and plenipotentiary at the court of Spain, and greatly distinguished himself as a negotiator. The late king appointed him his ambassador to the same court, and advanced him to the dignity of a peer, by the title of lord Harrington. He passed successively through the great offices of state, and was almost all his life-time engaged in a different interest from that of lord Chesterfield, being sometimes preferred to him, and sometimes superseded by him.

[16] By the first of these acts, all persons in places of profit and trust, who assisted at any place of worship where the common prayer was not used, forfeited their places; and, by the second, no person in Great Britain and Ireland was allowed, under pain of imprisonment, to keep any school, or be tutor or school-master, that had not subscribed to the declaration to conform to the church of England, obtained a licence from the diocesan, received the sacrament according to the communion of the church, and abstained from resorting, at least for a twelve-month, to any conventicle of the dissenters.

[17] Lord Guernsey's clause was to compel any person who took the abjuration oath, to acknowledge the di-  
 vine

vine inspiration of the bible, and the doctrine of the Trinity. It was rejected by a great majority.

[18] By this bill the number of English peers was not to be enlarged beyond six; the vacancies, in case of extinction of titles, were to be supported by the crown; and, instead of the sixteen peers elected for Scotland at every new parliament, twenty-five were to be made hereditary members of the house of lords for that kingdom, and that number kept up in case of failures.

[19] General Stanhope.

[20] Colonel William Stanhope and his brother Charles Stanhope.

[21] The king, who was at supper, was no sooner informed of the earl's death, than unable to conceal his grief, and with tears in his eyes, he rose from table, and withdrew. The countess of Chesterfield, who was present, favoured me with this account of that king's great sensibility. Lord Chesterfield himself, many years afterwards, found an opportunity of expressing his sentiments of that nobleman's merit in the following words. "The bill now before us (that for restraining the power of the crown, with regard to the dismissal of officers) is in the very same terms with a bill drawn up in the last reign by as able and honest a minister as ever served the crown: He was indeed an honest and disinterested minister; for he had the happiness of his country so much at heart, that he neglected his own, and has left little else to his son but the honour of having a seat among your lordships." Debates of the House of Lords, vol. IV. p. 200.

[22] The lords justices appointed on this occasion were, the archbishop of Canterbury, lord chancellor Parker, lord Townshend lord president, the duke of Kingston lord privy seal, the duke of Argyll lord steward, the duke of Newcastle lord chamberlain, the duke of Grafton lord lieutenant of Ireland, the dukes of Bolton, Devonshire, Marlborough, and Roxburgh, the earl of Sunderland, the earls Berkeley and Stanhope, and Mr. secretary Craggs.

[23] From Spain, almost during this whole reign, and in 1717 from Sweden and Russia. It was rather singular, that these two last powers, actually at war with one another, should have thought of making peace only with a view of uniting to attack England.

[24] In

[24] In 1715 and 1719.

[25] In 1718 and 1722.

[26] In 1720, the South-Sea affair not only shook public credit, but also the opinion that foreign nations might have entertained of British wisdom. France, however, had no reason to triumph. She had her Mississippi.

[27] The death of Lewis XIV. who survived queen Ann but one year, changed the political system of both courts. George I. had not a more faithful and vigilant friend than the regent of France. They were in somewhat similar circumstances. Spain threatening, and indeed trying, equally to deprive the duke of Orleans of his succession to the throne of France, and king George of the possession of that of England. It was this consideration which bound them so fast together, and united them to a certain degree in their wars. But as this connection was personal, it did not extend to the interests of England; and the French ministry heartily wished to make the restoration of Gibraltar to Spain the price of settling firmly the French succession. As soon as that was secured by the majority and marriage of their king, the peaceful correspondence between the two nations was at an end.

[28] Her house was the resort of the best company at Rome; and to that intercourse, as well as to the instructions of so accomplished and virtuous a lady, her sons owed all their improvement and success.

[39] By the error of press (vice 29). The word *gynocracy* was in some measure created at the beginning of the next period, and was often made use of by Pope and his friends.

[30] He died in 1716.

[31] See the characters of both as speakers in lord Chesterfield's Letters to his Son.

[32] He preserved that dignity in the celebrated speech he made in the house of peers before his commitment to the Tower. Even his great antagonist Bolingbroke, who seems to have treated him with too much severity, owned in private conversation, that his answer to the Dutch ambassador Mr. Buys, at the council in 1712, was a masterpiece of composition, and delivered in a masterly manner.

[33] Letters

[33] Letters to his son, vol. I.

[34] The duke of Wharton's character has been admirably drawn by Mr. Pope, and his history is sufficiently known. The following fact, which is extracted from a book, the ingenious author of which had the best opportunity of being well informed of it, will furnish us at once a proof both of his talents and profligacy. "His grace, then in opposition to the court, went to Chelsea the day before the last debate on the bishop of Rochester's affairs; where acting contrition, he professed being determined to work out his pardon at court by speaking against the bishop; in order to which he begged some hints. The minister was deceived, and went through the whole cause with him, pointing out where the strength of the argument lay, and where its weakness. The duke was very thankful, returned to town, passed the night in drinking; and, without going to bed, went to the house of lords, where he spoke for the bishop, recapitulating in the most masterly manner, and answering all that had been argued against him." Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors, vol. II. p. 127.

[35] That of York had been refused to him in the last reign: and it is said, that he entertained hopes of being bribed by that of Canterbury in this.

[36] I find in one of my late respectable friend Dr. Birch's papers the following anecdote. "Lord Harcourt leaving the old ministry, provoked Atterbury's abusive tongue. He, in return, declared, that, on the queen's death, the bishop came to him and to lord Bolingbroke, and said, nothing remained but immediately to proclaim K. J. He further offered, if they would give him a guard, to put on his lawn sleeves and head the procession."

[37] The following anecdote was often mentioned by lord Chesterfield; and I shall, to the best of my remembrance, give it in his own words. "I went to Mr. Pope one morning at Twickenham, and found a large folio bible with gilt clasps lying before him upon his table; and, as I knew his way of thinking upon that book, I  
" asked

“ asked him jocosely, if he was going to write an an-  
 “ swer to it? It is a present, said he, or rather a legacy,  
 “ from my old friend the bishop of Rochester. I went  
 “ to take my leave of him yesterday in the Tower, where  
 “ I saw this bible upon his table. After the first compli-  
 “ ments, the bishop said to me, My friend Pope, confi-  
 “ dering your infirmities and my age and exile, it is not  
 “ likely that we should ever meet again; and therefore I  
 “ give you this legacy to remember me by it. Take it  
 “ home with you, and let me advise you to abide by it.  
 “ —Does your lordship abide by it yourself?—I do.—  
 “ If you do, my lord, it is but lately. May I beg to  
 “ know what new light or arguments have prevailed with  
 “ you now, to entertain an opinion so contrary to that  
 “ which you entertained of that book all the former part  
 “ of your life?—The bishop replied, We have not time  
 “ to talk of these things; but take home the book; I  
 “ will abide by it; and I recommend to you to do so too,  
 “ and so God blefs you.”

[38] The contrast between these two characters is strongly marked in lord Chesterfield's letters, vol. I. p. 462. from which some of the strokes have been taken.

[39] See Dr. Taylor's Dissertation prefixed to his edition of Demosthenes.

[40] Lord Bathurst.

[41] That I am not singular in this idea of our  
 earl's eloquence will appear from the subjoined account  
 which was given of it by a contemporary writer in the  
 Gentleman's Magazine for March, 1740; it was well  
 received, but seems rather too vague and pompous.  
 “ Lord Chesterfield while he sat in the house of com-  
 “ mons, which he did for several years during the life of  
 “ his father, discovered not those extraordinary talents  
 “ that have since distinguished him as one of the most  
 “ accomplished orators his age or country has produced.  
 “ When he begins to speak, he has a peculiar art of en-  
 “ gaging the attention of his hearers, which he irresisti-  
 “ bly carries along with him to the end. He unites in his  
 “ delivery all the graces of diction that prevailed at  
 “ Athens and Rome, and expresses himself with all the  
 “ freedom which the British constitution allows, and all  
 “ the dignity of a peer. He is by no means sparing of his  
 “ Attic

“ Attic salt, which he applies so judiciously, as to please  
 “ even those whom it might otherwise offend. He reasons  
 “ with the calmness of a philosopher, he persuades with the  
 “ art of an orator, he charms with the fancy of a poet.”

[42] Lord Chesterfield makes use of this very word in the idea he gives to his son of parliamentary eloquence. Lett. to his son, vol. II.

[43] Tully could do no more. Whitfield often did as much.

[44] In the year 1717, he is mentioned in one of Mr. Pope's letters to his friend Gay, as being in correspondence with him.

[45] The earl said, That he never knew a man who had more wit in conversation than Sir John Van Brugh, and who, at the same time, was more good-natured.

[47] Dr. Arbuthnot was not only the earl's physician, but his friend. He was often with him in a morning, and more than once declared himself, in his presence, a patron of Christianity. He used frequently to communicate his compositions to his lordship. He desired him to amend and correct what he thought proper; and was never displeas'd at his lordship's making use of that privilege.

[48] It was probably at lord Chesterfield's desire that Mr. Gay's Fables were compos'd for the duke of Cumberland; but he wanted interest to procure a suitable return to the author. His lordship attended at that poet's funeral in November, 1732, in Westminster-abbey, as one of the pall-bearers.

[49] Mr. Pope likewise shewed him several of his pieces in manuscript, that he might read them, and give him his opinion. “ Mr. Pope, it is said in one of the magazines, “ being one day in company at lord Cobham's with a great “ number of persons of distinction, who were scribbling “ verses on their glasses, was desired by lord Chesterfield “ to oblige them with a distich *extempore*. Favour me “ with your diamond, my lord, said the poet; and im- “ mediately after wrote on his glass.

“ Accept a miracle, instead of wit;

“ See two bad lines by Stanhope's pencil writ.”

But a much finer, though equally short, character was drawn of him and of Mr. Poulteney, by the same hand:

“ How

“ How can I Pulteney, Chesterfield forget,  
 “ While Roman spirit charms, and Attic wit ?”

With these sentiments and under many obligations, it is rather surprizing he should have omitted him in his will I have been told, there arose some difference between them on account of the late dutchess of Marlborough, whose character, under the name of Atossa, Mr. Pope was, in vain, solicited by his friend to give up.

[50] Thomson, Mallet, Hooke, Glover, &c. One of these (Mr. Hammond) wrote, when only 22 years old, some love-elegies in the true manner of Tibullus; which lord Chesterfield esteemed so much, that, when the young author died ten years afterwards, he took upon him the pleasing task of publishing them. The short preface which he prefixed contains many strokes highly characteristic of his lordship's manner of thinking, as well as of his feelings.

[49] They procured many subscriptions to Mr. Gay for the impression of his Fables; and by the produce of these, as well as by the success of the Beggar's Opera, that poet was enriched as much as a poet commonly can, or perhaps ought to be enriched. Mr. Aaron Hill had frequent encouragements given him, notwithstanding his frequent bickerings with Mr. Pope; and even his great enemy Dennis was relieved in his old age, at the request of a man whom he had the most reviled.

[50] I shall copy the following article of one of the bishop of Waterford's letters to me. “ Lord Chesterfield told me, that, one winter, he was very often in company with Swift, and he observed that he was very desirous to be more particularly acquainted with him, but that he would not pay him the first visit; upon which his lordship condescended to make the first advance. When he was made lord steward, the dean applied for a place in favour of a friend. His lordship complied with his application; but, jocularly desired, that he should not mention his name in any of his writings.”

[51] See

[51] See his character drawn by lord Chesterfield in one of his letters to his son, vol. II. : to which may be added the following particulars, imparted by the earl in a private conversation (Dec. 3, 1749,) to one of his friends, who took them down in writing, and communicated to me this memorandum. “ In a conversation I had this  
 “ day with lord Chesterfield, upon the subject of lord  
 “ Bolingbroke, he told me, that, though nobody spoke  
 “ and wrote better upon philosophy than his lordship, no  
 “ man in the world had less share of philosophy than  
 “ himself; that the least trifle, such as the over-roasting  
 “ of a leg of mutton, would strangely disturb and ruffle  
 “ his temper; and that his passions constantly got the bet-  
 “ ter of his judgment. He added, that no man was  
 “ more partial to his friends, and more ready to oblige  
 “ them, than he was; and that he would recommend  
 “ them, and represent them, as so many models of per-  
 “ fection: but, on the other hand, that he was a most  
 “ bitter enemy to those he hated; and though their merit  
 “ might be out of all dispute, he would not allow them  
 “ the least share of it, but would pronounce them so  
 “ many fools and blockheads.”

[52] My late friend Mr. Mallet has often repeated to me that circumstance, which is strongly hinted at in lord Bolingbroke's own works. The late lord Clanbrassil told it the bishop of Waterford; and in a letter to Dr. Birch, from one of his best-informed correspondents, I find it asserted on no less an authority than that of the late earl of Orford.

[53] Mr. Horace, afterwards lord Walpole, treated this report as a fable; and the countess of Chesterfield, who was with the king in his last expedition, assured me, that whatever lord Bolingbroke might have been induced to hope or to say on that subject, the king never had such an intention.

[54] His Dialogues on the Newtonian System of Attraction and Colours, have been translated into English as well as other languages. The manner emulates that of Fontenelle's Plurality of Worlds, the philosophy is infinitely superior. Lord Chesterfield recommended his son to that amiable philosopher at Berlin.

[55] The

[55] The first edition of that poem was dedicated to her by the author in an English epistle. It was printed in London 1726.

[56] Mr. Voltaire acquired, during his stay in England, a considerable knowledge of the language and of the manners of the nation. It was there that he composed his Letters upon the English Nation, in which he strongly recommends inoculation to his countrymen. He likewise published in English, an Essay on Epic Poetry. His Tragedy of Brutus was dedicated to lord Bolingbroke, and that of Zaire to Sir Everard Fawkener. But above all, he paid his court to Mr. Pope, translated several passages of his works, and earnestly wished he would have done him the same honour. In an English letter to this poet from Mr. Voltaire, which I once had in my possession, he desired him to translate the following four beautiful lines of his Henriade; but I do not find that the English bard ever complied with his request.

“ Leur empire n’a point de campagnes desertes,  
 “ De leurs nombreux troupeaux leurs plaines sont couvertes;  
 “ Lesguérrets de leurs bleds, les mers de leurs vaisseaux;  
 “ Ils sont craints sur la terre, ils sont rois sur les eaux.”

[57] This he lamented in several of his letters, and if I am well informed, it retarded for many years his marriage with his lady; King George I. who was acquainted with this unfortunate propensity, having, on that account, opposed and prevented the match.

[58] In one of the rooms at Bath, he met a young nobleman just arrived, who had the same failing with himself. He whispered to his friend (pointing at the same time to some people who stood round them), *beware of these scoundrels; it is by flight alone that you can preserve your purse.* The nobleman believed him, quitted the room, and on his return found the earl engaged at play with those very harpies whom by his advice he had just escaped.

[59] The same hand, whose character of his lordship as an orator I just transcribed from the Gentleman’s Magazine, thus describes the charms of his conversation.

“ The

“ The most barren subjects grow fruitful under his cul-  
 “ ture, and the most trivial circumstances are enlivened  
 “ and heightened by his address. When he appears in  
 “ the public walks, the company encroach upon good  
 “ manners to listen to him, or (if the expression may be  
 “ allowed) to steal some of that fine wit, which animates  
 “ even his common discourses.

“ With poignant wit his converse still abounds,  
 “ And charms, like beauty, those it deepest wounds.”