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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 VII. To The Same.

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Consider that long illness has weakened it, and that it has now none of the ballast which yours has to keep it steady. It is so apt to turn of itself, that the least breeze of flattery may over-set it. But perhaps there may be some degree of self-love in your case, for in truth, I was the only lord lieutenant that you ever absolutely governed; but do not mention this, because I am said to have had no favourite.

Let me advise you as a friend not to engage too deep in the expence of a new, and pompous quarto edition of your friend Swift. I think you may chance to be, what perhaps you would not choose to be, a considerable loser by it. Whosoever in the three kingdoms has any books at all, has Swift, and unless you have some new pieces, and those too not trifling ones to add, people will not throw away their present handy and portable octavos, for expensive and unweildly quartos. How far indeed the name (you are so much superior to quibbles, that you can bear and sometimes even smile at them) of *quartos* may help them off in Ireland, I cannot pretend to say. After all this, I am very seriously,

Your faithful friend and servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

LETTER VII.

TO THE SAME.

London, July 1, 1762.

MY WORTHY FRIEND,

FROM my time down to the present, you have been in possession of governing the governors of Ireland, whenever you have thought fit to meddle with business; and if you had meddled more with some, it might perhaps

haps have been better for them and better for Ireland. A proof of this truth is, that an *out* governor, no sooner received your commands, than he sent them to the *in* governor, who without delay returned him the inclosed answer, by which you know what you have to do.

I send you no news from hence, as it appears by your Journal, that you are much better informed of all that passés, and of all that does not pass than I am; but one piece of news I look upon myself in duty bound to communicate to you, as it relates singly to yourself. Would you think it, Mr. Foote, who, if I mistake not, was one of your *Symposion* while you was in London, and if so the worse man he, takes you off, as it is vulgarly called, that is, acts you in his new Farce, called the Orators. As the government here cannot properly take notice of it, would it be amiss that you should shew some spirit upon this occasion, either by way of stricture, contempt, or by bringing an action against him; I do not mean for writing the said farce, but for acting is. The doctrine of *scribere est agere* was looked upon as too hard in the case of Algernon Sidney, but my lord Coke in his incomparable notes upon Littleton, my lord chief justice Hales in his Pleas of the Crown, my lord Vaughan, Salkeld, and in short all the greatest men of the law, do, with their usual perspicuity and precision, lay it down for law that *agere est agere*. And this is exactly Mr. Foote's case with regard to you; therefore any orders that you shall think fit to send me, in this affair as to retaining counsel, filing a bill of, Faulkner versus Foote, or bringing a common action upon the case, which I should think would be the best of all, the case itself being actionable, shall be punctually executed by,

Your faithful friend and servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

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