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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 XV. To The Same.

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to fhew their skill upon : but, when once established by Charter, the very advantages which are expected from, and which, I believe, will attend that Charter, I fear may prove fatal. It may then become an object of party, and Parliamentary views; (for you know how low they floop) in which cafe it will become fubfervient to the worft, inftead of the beft defigns. Remember the Linen-board, where the paltry dividend of a little flaxfeed was become the feed of jobbs, which indeed produced one hundred fold. However, I fubmit my fears to your hopes; and will do all that I can to promote that Charter which you, who I am fure have confidered it in every light, feem fo defirous of. Mr. Maccauley, who is now here, has brought over the rough draught of a Charter, which he and I are to meet and confider of next week. I hope your worthy fellow labourers, and my worthy friends, the bifhop of Meath and Mr. Prior are well. May you long be fo, for the good of mankind, and for the particular fatisfaction of,

Your most fincere friend and faithful fervant,

CHESTERFIELD,

I hope you will fend me the other Cantos by proper opportunities, for I long to fee them.

LETTER XV.

TO THE SAME.

London, November 29, 1748.

SIR,

A RETURN of my old complaint of vertigos and pains in my head, which fent me to Bath, from whence I am but lately arrived here, and that with lefs benefit than I hoped for, delayed till now my acknowledgments

TO THE REV. DR. SAMUEL MADDEN. 333

ledgments for your laft friendly letter which accompanied the remainder of your poem. I read it with great pleafure, and not without fome furprize to find a work of that length continued to the end with the fame fpirit and fire with which it begins. Horace's great rule of *qualis ab incapto* was, I believe, never better obferved. If the public receives the fame pleafure from it that I have done, you will have the fatisfaction of having difcharged every office towards mankind, that a private citizen of the world is capable of. Your example, your fortune, and your genius, will all have been devoted to the fervice, the improvement, and the rational pleafures of your fellow-creatures.

I make no doubt but that the Charter for the Dublin Society, when once you fhall have formed it properly among yourfelves, will be granted here; and upon the whole I am much for it, and will promote it to my power; not but that I forefee fome dangers on that fide of the queftion too. Abufes have always hitherto crept into corporate bodies, and will probably, in time, creep into this too: but I hope that it will have fuch an effect, at firft, as to make the future abufes of lefs confequence. The draught, which Mr. Maccauley fhewed me here, of the Charter feems to have all the provisions in it, that human prudence can make againft human iniquity.

Good health and long life attend you, my good friend, for the fake of mankind in general, and of that country in particular, which will ever have a great fhare of the warmeft wifhes of,

Your faithful humble fervant,

CHESTERFIELD.

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