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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 XVI. To The Same.

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LETTER XVI.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, April 15, 1749.

S I R,

YOU are, I am sure, too well persuaded of my sincere regard and friendship for you, to impute my late silence to negligence or forgetfulness: but, two concurrent causes have hindered me from acknowledging your two last letters; the one was the ill state of my health; the other was the unfetled state of my person, in my migration from my old house to my new one, where I have hardly yet got pen, ink, paper and a table. This latter has, I believe, been attested to you by your son, who saw me unfurnished in my old house, and since unfetled in my new one. I have (as I told him that I would) executed your orders, with regard to my book-sellers: I have told them, more fully than I can tell you, my thoughts of the work, and have raised their impatience for some of the copies; for which they will treat with your printer. How they will sell (considering the whimsical and uncertain decision of the public in those matters) I do not know; but how they ought to sell, if the public judges right, I well know: for I never saw more wit, fancy and imagination upon any one single subject. Every one of your alterations are, in my opinion, for the better, excepting those which you say you have made in my favour, and in which I fear, the public will too justly differ from you: your partiality to me had carried you but too far before. I congratulate both you and Ireland most heartily, upon the encreasing fruits of your labours for the public good: for I am informed from all hands, that a spirit of industry diffuses itself through all Ireland; the linen manufacture gains ground daily in the South and South-west; and new manufactures arise in different parts

parts of the kingdom; all which, I will venture to say, is originally owing to your judicious and indefatigable endeavours for the good of your country. You know the nature of mankind in general, and of our countrymen in particular, (for I still think and call myself an Irishman) well enough, to know that the invitation by præmiums would be much more effectual than laws, or remote considerations of general public good, upon which few people reason well enough to be convinced that their own solid, private interest essentially depends. The Dublin Society, and, in particular, my good friends the bishop of Meath, and Prior, have seconded you very well; and it is not saying too much of them to say, that they deserve better of Ireland, than any one other set of men in it; I will not even except the parliament. The præmiums for flaxseed raised, instead of the former iniquitous distribution of it, have, I am told and believe, had very good consequences for the linen manufacture. And, as *there* was an infamous jobb got the better of, I am in hopes that all jobbs will be hindered from creeping into that excellent establishment of the Protestant Charter-Schools, which, if it be kept pure but for some years, will have a prodigious effect, as to the religious and political state of Ireland: but, if once Protestant children slip into those schools, as was attempted in my time, the end of their institution ceases. I hope the University of Dublin, that enjoys a share of your præmiums, deserves them. Our two Universities, at least, will do it no hurt, unless by their examples; for I cannot believe that their present reputations will invite people in Ireland to send their sons there. The one (Cambridge) is sunk into the lowest obscurity; and the existence of Oxford would not be known, if it were not for the treasonable spirit publicly avowed, and often exerted there. The University of Dublin has this great advantage over ours; it is one compact body, under the eye and authority of one head, who, if he is a good one, can enforce order and discipline, and establish the public exercises as he thinks proper; among which the purity and elegance of the English language ought to be particularly

particularly

ticularly attended to : for there you are apt to fail in Ireland. But, I trouble you too long, upon subjects of which you are a much better judge than I am, and upon the spot to observe. My thoughts are only *Quæ censet amicus* ; and I give them you, *Ut si cæcus iter monstrare velit*. My wishes for the prosperity of your country are as warm and as sincere, as the sentiments of regard, esteem and friendship, with which I am,

Your most faithful humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

L E T T E R XVII.

TO MR. SEXTON, LIMERICK.

London, April 8, 1752.

S I R,

I AM sincerely glad of the reward and encouragement which your industry hath met with. I never doubted but that it would ; for, though imaginary merit commonly complains of being unrewarded, real merit, sooner or later, in some shape or other, seldom fails of success. You have already experienced this, and will, I hope and believe, experience it every day more and more. Your Paper already wants but very little of equaling the best that any other country furnishes, and I see no reason why you should not bring it soon to such a point of perfection as to supply all the demands of Ireland, and possibly some of England ; for at present we import a great deal from other countries. Let me give you one piece of advice, though I believe you want it less than most manufacturers in Ireland. Never think your paper either good enough or cheap enough, be it ever so good or ever so cheap, but always endeavour to make it both better and cheaper ; and sacrifice a little present and precarious to
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