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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 XX. To The Earl Of Arran.

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LETTER XX.

TO THE EARL OF ARRAN.

Bath, October 22, 1770.

MY LORD,

I CONSIDER lord and lady Sudley's passing through Geneva as a fortunate accident for me, as it was the occasion of reviving me in your lordship's memory, for whom I always had the greatest regard and esteem: the advantageous testimony which my kinswoman lady Stanhope bore of lord and lady Sudley, in a letter to me, ought to have the greater weight, as it was unasked and unbiassed; for she could not know the part I took in every thing that concerned you: and I have been so long out of the world, that I did not know who lord and lady Sudley were, till I was informed by my old friend George Faulkner. Having mentioned him, give me leave to set your lordship right as to a very great mistake in a letter from you to him, which he shewed me. Your lordship says there, that you thought I looked coldly upon you for having proposed in the house of commons, the augmentation of four or five thousand men. Now I assure your lordship, upon my honor, that I had no such intention: it is true I disapproved of the motion, which I thought at that time unnecessary, and I think time has justified my opinion. I had always a great contempt for that extravagant attempt of the Pretender, which though it scattered shameful terrors, both here and in Ireland, I own never gave me one moment's uneasiness. In all events, I thought the affair must be decided one way or other before the troops proposed could be raised and tolerably disciplined, but I well knew that the half pay of the officers would remain for many years a burthen

then

then upon Ireland, which I was unfashionable enough to consider, and to prevent if I could; but I had not the least reason to be displeas'd with whoever propos'd or voted for that question; on the contrary, it flatter'd my vanity, in giving me the nomination of all the officers, and might have flatter'd my purse still more, had I been an infamous corrupt rascal. I never tamper'd with votes, nor ever made the least distinction in my reception of the members of either House upon account of their political conduct; nor indeed, could I well do it, for your lordship well knows that I met with no difficulty nor opposition during my short administration; you all judg'd favourably, and give me leave to add justly, of my intentions, and in consideration of them excus'd my errors. When I return'd from Ireland, I thought that the weight of property was too unequally divided between the two houses, and preponderated too much on the side of the house of Commons, and therefore, I laid a list before the late king of six commoners of the largest property, and the best characters to be made peers, in which list I give your lordship my word and honor you was one; the king approv'd of it, but fate soon dispos'd of me in another department, much against my inclinations. Since that time I have ever heartily, though ineffectually, wish'd the peace and prosperity of Ireland, and shall always value myself upon its good opinion. I ask pardon for this tedious letter, relative only to times past, but I plead the privilege of seventy-six years of age which is always apt to be garrulous.

I am, with the greatest truth and esteem,

MY LORD,

Your lordship's most faithful,

and obedient servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

then upon Ireland, which I was unskillful enough to consider, and to prevent if I could; but I had not the least reason to be dissatisfied with whoever proposed or voted for that question; on the contrary, it pleased my vanity, in giving me the nomination of all the members, and might have pleased my pride, had I been an infamous courtier, as I never flattered with votes, nor ever made the least distinction in my reception of the members of either House upon account of their private conduct; nor indeed, could I well do so, for your lordship well knows that I sat with no dissenters, nor opposed them during my first administration; you all judged for me, and give me leave to add, that of my intentions, and in consideration of them, I never made any error. When I returned from Ireland, I thought that the weight of business was too unequally divided between the two Houses, and did therefore too much on the side of the House of Commons, and therefore, I had a bill for the late King of his command of the great property, and the best characters to be made poets, in which bill I give your lordship my word and honor you was one; the King approved of it, but late Lord Bute, of the other side, much against my inclination. Since that time I have ever heartily, though in secret, wished the peace and prosperity of Ireland, and shall always give advice upon its good opinion. I still persist in this tedious paper, relative only to your lordship, but I placed the privilege of twenty six years of age, which is always apt to be forgotten.

I am, with the greatest truth and affection,

Yours,

Your lordship's most faithful

and obedient servant,

John Carter

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