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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**

Sir Robert Walpole.

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## QUEEN CAROLINE.

QUEEN CAROLINE had lively, pretty parts, a quick conception, and some degree of female knowledge; and would have been an agreeable woman in social, if she had not aimed at being a great one in public, life. She had the graces that adorn the former, but neither the strength of parts, nor the judgment necessary for the latter. She professed art, instead of concealing it, and valued herself upon her skill in simulation and dissimulation, by which she made herself many enemies, and not one friend, even amongst the women the nearest to her person. She loved money, but could occasionally part with it, especially to men of learning, whose patronage she affected. She often conversed with them, and bewildered herself in their metaphysical disputes, which neither she nor they themselves understood. Cunning and perfidy were the means she made use of in business—as all women do—for want of better. She shewed her art the most in her management of the king, whom she governed absolutely, by a seeming complaisance and obedience to all his humours—she even favoured and promoted his gallantries. She had a dangerous ambition, for it was attended with courage, and, if she had lived much longer, might have proved fatal, either to herself or to the constitution. After puzzling herself in all the whimsies and fantastical speculations of different sects, she fixed ultimately in Deism, believing a future state.—She died with great resolution and intrepidity, of a very painful distemper, and under some cruel operations.

Upon the whole, the Agreeable Woman was liked by most people, but the Queen was neither esteemed, beloved, nor trusted by any body but the king.

## SIR ROBERT WALPOLE.

**I**MUCH question, whether an impartial character of Sir Robert Walpole will or can be transmitted to posterity :

ty: for he governed this kingdom so long, that the various passions of mankind mingled and in a manner incorporated themselves with every thing that was said or written concerning him. Never was man more flattered or more abused—and his long power was probably the cause of both. I was much acquainted with him both in his public and private life. I mean to do impartial justice to his character, and therefore my picture of him will perhaps be more like him, than it will be like any of the other pictures drawn of him.

In private life he was good-natured, chearful, social; inelegant in his manners, loose in his morals, he had a coarse strong wit, which he was too free of for a man in his station, as it is always inconsistent with dignity. He was very able as a Minister, but without a certain elevation of mind, necessary for great good, or great mischief. Profuse and appetent, his ambition was subservient to his design of making a great fortune—He had more of the Mazarin than of the Richelieu—He would do mean things for profit, and never thought of doing great ones for glory. He was both the best parliament-man, and the ablest manager of parliament, that I believe ever lived. An artful rather than eloquent speaker, he saw, as by intuition, the disposition of the house, and pressed or receded accordingly. So clear in stating the most intricate matters, especially in the finances, that, whilst he was speaking, the most ignorant thought that they understood what they really did not. Money, not prerogative, was the chief engine of his administration; and he employed it with a success, which in a manner disgraced humanity. He was not, it is true, the inventor of that shameful method of governing, which had been gaining ground insensibly ever since Charles the Second, but with uncommon skill and unbounded profusion he brought it to that perfection which at this time dishonours and distresses this country, and which (if not checked, and God knows how it can be now checked) must ruin it.

Besides this powerful engine of government, he had a most extraordinary talent of persuading and working men

up

up to his purpose---A hearty kind of frankness, which sometimes seemed imprudence, made people think that he let them into his secrets, whilst the impoliteness of his manners seemed to attest his sincerity. When he found any body proof against pecuniary temptations, which alas! was but seldom, he had recourse to a still worse art: for he laughed at and ridiculed all notions of public virtue and the love of one's country, calling them "*The chimerical school-boy flights of classical learning*", declaring himself at the same time "*No Saint, no Spartan, no Reformer.*" He would frequently ask young fellows at their first appearance in the world, while their honest hearts were yet untainted---"*Well, are you to be an old Roman? a patriot? You'll soon come off of that and grow wiser.*" And thus he was more dangerous to the morals, than to the liberties of his country, to which I am persuaded that he meant no ill in his heart.

He was the easy and profuse dupe of women, and in some instances indecently so---He was excessively open to flattery, even of the grossest kind, and from the coarsest bunglers of that vile profession; which engaged him to pass most of his leisure and jovial hours with people whose blasted characters reflected upon his own---He was loved by many, but respected by none, his familiar and illiberal mirth and raillery leaving him no dignity---He was not vindictive, but on the contrary very placable to those who had injured him the most---His good humour, good nature, and beneficence in the several relations of father, husband, master, and friend, gained him the warmest affections of all within that circle.

His name will not be recorded in history amongst the Best Men, or the Best Ministers, but much less ought it to be ranked amongst the Worst.

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#### MR. PULTENEY.

**M**R. PULTENEY was formed by nature for social and convivial pleasures---Resentment made him engage in business. He had thought himself slighted by  
Sir