



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

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**

Lord Hardwicke.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52184](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52184)

I may perhaps be suspected to have given too strong colouring to some features of this portrait; but I solemnly protest, that I have drawn it conscientiously and to the best of my knowledge, from very long acquaintance with and observation of the original. Nay, I have rather softened than heightened the colouring.

L O R D H A R D W I C K E.

L O R D H A R D W I C K E was perhaps the greatest Magistrate that this country ever had. He presided in the Court of Chancery above twenty years, and in all that time none of his decrees were reversed, nor the justness of them ever questioned. Though avarice was his ruling passion, he was never in the least suspected of any kind of corruption—a rare and meritorious instance of virtue and self-denial, under the influence of such a craving, insatiable, and increasing passion!

He had great and clear parts; understood, loved, and cultivated the Belles Lettres.

He was an agreeable, eloquent speaker in Parliament, but not without some little tincture of the pleader.

Men are apt to mistake, or at least to seem to mistake their own talents, in hopes perhaps of misleading others to allow them that which they are conscious they do not possess. Thus Lord Hardwicke valued himself more upon being a great Minister of state, which he certainly was not, than upon being a great Magistrate, which he certainly was.

All his notions were clear, but none of them great. Good order and domestic details were his proper department. The great and shining parts of government, though not above his parts to conceive, were above his timidity to undertake.

By great and lucrative employments, during the course of thirty years, and by still greater parsimony, he acquired an immense fortune, and established his numerous family in profitable posts and advantageous alliances.

Though he had been Solicitor and Attorney General, he was by no means what is called a prerogative lawyer
---he

---he loved the constitution, and maintained the just prerogative of the crown, but without stretching it to the oppression of the people.

He was naturally humane, moderate, and decent, and when by his former employments he was obliged to prosecute state-criminals, he discharged that duty in a very different manner from most of his predecessors, who were too justly called the Blood-hounds of the Crown.

He was a cheerful and instructive companion, humane in his nature, decent in his manners, unstained with any vice (Avarice excepted) a very Great Magistrate, but by no means a Great Minister.

MR. FOX.

MR. HENRY FOX was a younger brother of the lowest extraction. His father, Sir Stephen Fox, made a considerable fortune, *some how or other*, and left him a fair younger brother's portion, which he soon spent in the common vices of youth, gaming included. This obliged him to travel for some time. While abroad, he met with a very salacious Englishwoman, whose liberality retrieved his fortune, with several circumstances, more to the honor of his vigour than his morals.

When he returned, though by education a Jacobite, he attached himself to Sir Robert Walpole, and was one of his ablest *elevés*. He had no fixed principles either of religion or morality, and was too unweary in ridiculing and exploding them.

He had very great abilities and indefatigable industry in business, great skill in managing, that is, in corrupting, the House of Commons, and a wonderful dexterity in attaching individuals to himself. He promoted, encouraged, and practised their vices; he gratified their avarice, or supplied their profusion. He wisely and punctually performed whatever he promised, and most liberally rewarded their attachment and dependance. By these and all other means that can be imagined, he made himself many personal friends and political dependants.

He