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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 LXXX. To The Same.

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LETTER LXXX.

TO THE SAME.

Bath, Dec. 7, 1762.

AT last, madam, things are once more returned into their right channel; our ports are open, the post goes as usual, and our epistolary commerce is free. I prefer this commerce to that of America. It is not unlike it in one respect; for I put you off with paltry shells, and, in return, you give me gold and precious stones, or what I value infinitely more, your letters. Indeed, madam, they are the greatest comfort of my melancholy life; they speak to my eyes most delightfully, and now I can hear but through my eyes. I have been bathing here for a month, to remove, if possible, the remains of my rheumatism, but hitherto I find no benefit, so that I reckon to return to town in a fortnight. All places are much alike to me, but I think home is most convenient.

As I know you are connected with the duke of Nevers, you may assure him the duke of Nivernois is beloved, respected, and admired by all the sensible people, both at court and in the town. My testimony ought not to be suspected; a Carthusian like me, can have no interest to serve by flattering any one. I durst not mention to him the affair of the reverend fathers; it might be an indiscretion, especially if, as I suppose, there be some reason of state at the bottom. I very much question, whether their abilities, which have hitherto been so serviceable to them, will be able to extricate them now. The present age is not favourable to religious societies, it is too much enlightened, and I tremble for the holy father himself in the next century.

I can assure you, with great truth, that, had I not been deaf, I should have been with you a fortnight ago; but I will frankly confess, it would be too mortifying for self-love, to shew myself in the condition I am in. I really believe a better climate might be of service to my health in general, but, whilst he who speaks to me of climate
speaks