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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 LXXXV. To Madame Du Boccage\*.

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## LETTER LXXXV.

TO MADAME DU BOCCAGE\*.

London, June 14, O. S. 1750.

LET us speak frankly, madam. You must agree with me, that your merit, and the reputation you have acquired, will every where prove a sufficient recommendation; and will, in all countries, procure you the same reception, as you have met with in Holland. I have not pretended to recommend you to Mr. Dayrolles; I only told him you were coming. I have acted the part of a news-writer, and inserted a paragraph, importing that Mrs. du Boccage was preparing to set out from London for the Hague. For some people such a recommendation is sufficient.

During four days stay in Holland, you have framed the same notions of the Dutch, as I had conceived during more than four years residence among them, and you recall them all to me in the compass of four lines. It is so true, that the men are slow, that I do not recollect I ever saw one, who was what would be called young in any other country. But if you imagine their women to be as still as the waters of their canals, and as cleanly as their houses, two thirds of the husbands would contradict you, and would tell you, though in a whisper, that they are only so outwardly. At home they are mere *Amazons*, and the husbands are the wretched captives, destined to perpetuate the *gynarchy*. Accordingly, they people at a great rate, and with all the gravity imaginable. They consider propagation as an article, that is necessary to their commerce, and they acquit themselves as good patriots.

The epithet of motionless, which you bestow on my friend Mr. L——, is a very just one. The good man seems to be rather the keeper than the owner of his collection of pictures. He shews them

\* These letters I received from Madame du Boccage, to whom they were written by the noble author. He had shewn uncommon civilities both to her husband and herself, during their stay in England,