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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 LXXXVIII. To The Same.

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LETTER LXXXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

M A D A M,

MR. Stanhope, my kinsman *, whom I mentioned to you in England, will have the honor to deliver this to you at Paris. I know not whether he is worthy of being presented to you; but I well know that every time he has the honor of seeing you, he will be the fitter to appear. If wit were catching like the small-pox, I should procure him a fair opportunity of catching the best sort; but it is very certain that most people insensibly contract the style, and manner of the company they frequent. Therefore, I must beg, madam, you will permit him now and then to pay his court to you without ceremony, at such hours as will be least troublesome. Some examples there are, which are better than all the precepts in the world; and some counsels which are more forcible than commands. He already knows and respects your reputation, as all the world does, but, without a compliment, you rise above it, which he will be convinced of, when he has the honor of being personally acquainted with you. I earnestly intreat you, madam, to use no ceremony, no indulgence, but to assume that authority over him, which is the smallest right you derive from the friendship you honor me with. Let nothing pass unreproved; command supremely, and, with all due deference to the president, I dare answer for it, his obedience to such despotism will not be the effect of fear, but of choice.

Will you pardon this freedom? Yes, madam, I am too well acquainted with your sentiments to doubt it; you are likewise no stranger to those, with which I have the honor to be,

M A D A M,

Your, &c.

* His son.

L E T-