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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 XCII. To The Same.

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I consider, perhaps rather too late, that if you have at last received my former letter, and this should follow close after it, I may have given you a literary surfeit, and that, by way of diet, you will be obliged to write no more to me, for fear of the consequences. I shall, therefore, break off abruptly, and without telling you how much I am, &c.

P. S. As marshal Saxe is now of no sect, he little cares where his body shall rest*. The worms will equally have their share, whether under the protection of St. Peter, or that of Luther or Calvin; but his glory is in safety: this we can attest to our cost, and we do him justice. Will national prejudice and party zeal suffer you to do the same in France?

L E T T E R X C I I .

T O T H E S A M E .

London, Jan. 14, O. S. 1751.

INDEED, madam, my gratitude is equal to your kindness; this comprehends all in one sentence; two sheets of compliments would not express it so fully. My young traveller is duly sensible of the civilities you have heaped upon him; he prides himself in having received your commands relating to a dancing-master; he considers himself as your adopted son, and even alludes to I don't know who in the fable, whose education the muses had superintended. He is certainly in a good school, and it will be his own fault if he does not improve, since you condescend to instruct him by your advice and example. He is not only deficient in the manners of the polite world, but I wish he may not have contracted those of the German and Italian world, having spent upwards of four years in those two countries; and as good masters like better to teach scholars, who have never learnt at all, than those, who have been ill-principled, it is not impossible but the German stiffness, and the Italian

* As the marshal continued to his death to profess the Lutheran religion, his body could not be deposited in the cathedral of Paris, or at St. Denys, where the ashes of the French kings lie. As the court, however, was determined to do all possible honor to that great warrior's memory,

Je fais réflexion, peut-être un peu trop tard, que si ma dernière lettre vous est enfin parvenue, et que celle-ci la suive de près, je vous aurai causé une indigestion littéraire, et que par régime vous serez obligée de ne me plus écrire crainte des suites. Je finirai donc brusquement, et sans vous dire à quel point je suis, &c.

P. S. Le maréchal de Saxe n'étant à-présent d'aucune secte, il ne s'embarassera guères où son corps reposera*. Les vers en auront également leur part, soit sous la protection de St. Pierre, soit sous celle de Luther ou de Calvin : mais sa gloire est en sûreté, nous en sommes malheureusement les garans, nous y rendons justice. Les préjugés de nation et de secte vous permettront-ils d'en faire autant en France ?

L E T T R E XCII.

A L A M Ê M E.

A Londres, ce 14 Janv. V. S. 1751.

EN vérité, madame, ma reconnoissance égale votre bonté, c'est tout dire en deux mots. Deux feuilles de complimens n'en marqueroient pas si bien l'étendue ; aussi mon jeune voyageur sent comme il le doit, les attentions dont vous l'avez comblé. Il se fait gloire d'avoir reçu vos ordres au sujet d'un maître à danser ; il se considère comme votre fils adoptif ; il fait même allusion à je ne sais qui dans la fable, dont les muses se chargèrent du soin de l'éducation. Il est sûrement en bonne école ; s'il n'en profite pas, ce sera sa faute, puisque vous daignez l'instruire par vos conseils, et par vos exemples. Non seulement il n'a pas l'usage du beau monde, mais je crains qu'il n'ait l'usage du monde Allemand et Italien, ayant passé plus de quatre ans dans ces deux pays ; et comme les bons maîtres préfèrent d'enseigner à ceux, qui n'ont jamais appris, plutôt qu'à ceux, qui ont eu de mauvais principes, il se pourroit que la roideur Allemande et la pantalonade Italienne retarderoient les progrès du bel usage. Vous

memory, they ordered his remains to be sent to Strasburg, the capital of the Lutheran province of Alsace, at the king's expence, and a superb monument has been erected to immortalize his merits, and the gratitude of the French.

taxez,