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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 XCVII. To Mr. de Kreuningen*, at the Hague.

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L E T T E R XCVII.

To Mr. de KREUNINGEN*, at the Hague.

Blackheath, July 7, 1752.

WHAT shall I say to you, my dear baron? Deaf and solitary, and tired of myself, I must of course tire others. This place, which I had intended for the sweets of society, by collecting a few friends successively, is now become the place of my banishment from all society. A deaf man is an exile, an outlaw, wherever he is; for except the article of guilt, there is not the least difference between the man to whom nobody will speak, and the man who can hear nobody. In vain I have recourse to philosophy, and endeavour to make up for the sense I have lost, by enjoying those that remain. In vain do I read, write, walk, and ride; it is no longer a matter of choice, but of necessity, and consequently it has no relish. With all this, I find many vacant hours in the four and twenty. But this is talking too much of myself; your friendship, which is the cause of it, must also make my apology.

Deaf people are apt to be loquacious upon paper, as they have so much time upon their hands. For my part, I never judge of writings, but by the degree of pleasure they give me; and I will maintain, to the face of all the pedants in the universe, that Pope's epistles and satires have all the good sense and precision of Horace's, with a thousand times more wit. I will declare, moreover, that the French theatre is infinitely superior to the Greek or Latin. I will say too, that the divine Homer tires me very often, that Swift is preferable to Lucian, and that, of all historians, Tacitus is my favourite.

L E T-

* As that gentleman, mentioned in the preceding letters, appears from those to Mr. Dayrolles, to have been lord Chesterfield's principal correspondent in Holland, I was in hopes their letters might have been preserved, and used my endeavours to procure them.—Both being men of parts, of learning, and of wit, both enjoying equal leisure to read, and taste to read well, it would have been interesting