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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 XIII. To The Same.

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Lausanne in three weeks, I shall be obliged to you, if you will write to monsieur de Brenles in about a fortnight, to desire that he will send you in the utmost confidence, but with the greatest freedom, the entire analysis of the boy's heart, mind and manners; which in all this time he must know thoroughly, having seen him every day, and in his unguarded hours. It will be of infinite use to me to know all these particulars. I have not yet mentioned, either to the boy or Mr. Harte, any thing of what madame de Bouchat writ to you, that they might not suspect from whence it came, or endeavour to fish it out. But as soon as they are got to Leipzig, they shall hear of it with a vengeance, but so, as that it shall be impossible for them to guess from whence I had it.

I am astonished at the not sending prince Waldeck's corps into the lines of Bergen-op-zoom, where they would, with those troops that were in the lines before, have formed a strength, which might probably have saved the town, whereas, divided as they are, I fear that neither corps is strong enough separately for any purpose. Adieu.

Yours, C.

L E T T E R XIII.

TO THE SAME.

London, Aug. 11, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,*

I WAS in doubt, whether I should write to you to-night or not, it being doubtful, whether by this time you have a head upon your shoulders or not. But upon mature deliberation, I determined to write eventually, knowing, at worst, my letter would by no means be the first that had been sent to a minister without a head. I confess the hopes which I have, that the French will raise the siege of Bergen-op-zoom, arise from the apprehensions which they may entertain of you, and the bishop of Raphoe; for otherwise, I see no one thing, that should induce them to it.

I suspect

* An excursion of M. Dayrolles to Bergen-op-zoom with the bishop of Raphoe (Twisden) was the occasion of this letter.

I suspect that the bishop of Raphoe has an eye to the bishoprick of Munster, upon the death of the elector of Cologne, and means to shew that he will do as well as Bernard Van Galen (a)

I am persuaded, that the new tax *, from which such sums are expected, will either not be laid, from the opposition which it will meet with, or, if laid, will hardly be collected without the assistance of dragoons. In my opinion, when Bergen-op-zoom shall be taken, the consternation will be universal in the republic, and the tone of the most sanguine will be altered. Williamstadt or Zeeland will fall next; and then what ground our troops will have to stand upon, and where they will find quarters, I am at a loss to guess. I am even in pain for their existence, after the town shall be taken.

I have signed your bill of extraordinaries. Pray, what becomes of Kreuningen? Is he not frightened out of his wits? Adieu.

Yours faithfully,

C.

LET-

(a) The warlike bishop of Munster, who twice laid siege to his capital, and was so active in the Dutch war of the year 1672.

* This tax, under the name of *Liberal Gift* or *Don Gratuit*, was raised in a very extraordinary manner. Large cases or trunks were placed in all the town-houses in the province of Holland, in which, all persons, whose whole capital did not amount to less than 2000 florins, were obliged to deposit upon oath, either in cash, obligations of the state, or plate, to the value of at least 2 per cent. of whatever they possessed, either in cash, land, jewels, plate, pictures, obligations, employments, &c. nothing but household goods and wearing apparel to be excepted. They were also obliged to swear, that in case they should afterwards find out, that they had not paid in their quotas, according to a true and just evaluation of all their effects, they would faithfully make it up again, to the best of their knowledge.

The sum produced by this heavy imposition was kept a profound secret, and never came to the knowledge of the world with any certainty. However, there is good reason to think, that the amount of the same did not fall short of twenty-two millions of florins, viz. two millions sterling, in the single province of Holland. The public debt of that province alone, at that time, was computed at forty millions sterling.