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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 XXI. To The Same.

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get in any other shape but that of battallions and squadrons, but, however, I desire you will accompany it with the best-grounded conjecture that you can form of the real number of effective men, to which the whole establishment amounts.

As the world goes, I am not displeas'd with monsieur de Brenles's (a) account of the boy; and to tell you the truth, it is better than I expected. I agree with you, that Leipzig is not the place to give him that *bon ton*, which I know he wants; but then consider, that he can acquire that *bon ton*, no where but in mixed companies, and in the pleasures of people of fashion at courts, which if he were to taste of so young as he is now, there would be an end of all studies. And he still wants a foundation in several sciences, which he will lay better at Leipzig than any where else. He will there make himself master of the German language, the history and constitution of the empire, some Grotius, some civil law, and other things, which he must either learn now or never. It is true that in all this time he will contract a little German dirt; but that is easier rubb'd off, especially at his age, than English dirt. Turin will effectually do that; and Paris shall give, at last, the true varnish.

Harte writes me word, that the boy really works hard, and has barely time to eat, drink, and sleep. In all the vacations, he is to go to Dresden, which will do some good to his manners.

Adieu.

LETTER XXI.

TO THE SAME.

London, Dec. 14, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I Have received your letter of the 19th, N. S. Your account of the inefficiency of the government in Holland is, I am convinc'd, very true, and I have the same from various

(a) The gentleman at whose house young Stanhope was a boarder at Laufanne.

various hands. Much talking, and very little doing, sanguine folly without force, and obstinacy without judgment. Marêchal de Lowendahl will, I believe, soon talk in a much more effectual manner to Zealand or Breda, though I should rather think the latter; as it is easier, and, with regard to England, of more importance.

If count Nassau will break bones, I presume he will begin with Rodriguez's (*a*). It is a most scandalous article.

I have spoke again about your payment, and have had fair promises.

I have not yet received *Memnon* (*b*); have you read *Angola* (*c*)? It is very prettily written. By the first opportunity of a courier, I shall send Kreuningen a cargo of pamphlets, though we have had no good ones of late. *Adieu, mon enfant.*

LETTER XXII.

TO THE SAME.

London, Jan. 1, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE received your two last letters, and likewise *Memnon*. I always like the former; but to tell you the truth, I do not so much admire the latter as Kreuningen does, who tells me that he *devoured* it. I have sent him a load of bad books and pamphlets, by his particular order; for none good have appeared here of late. Pray, make him my compliments, and my excuses for not having yet answered his letter, which I will do soon.

By what you tell me, and by what I hear from other hands, there is much talking and little doing at the Hague; whereas the French, though they love talking as well as other people, seem to be doing, as I fear we shall soon find. I am called away. Good night, dear Dayrolles.

LET-

(*a*) The writer of the Cologne Gazette.

(*b*) One of Voltaire's philosophical tales.

(*c*) A very licentious novel, written in the style of Crébillon.