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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 XXIV. To The Same.

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L E T T E R XXIII.

TO THE SAME.

London, Jan. 12, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

THREE mails, which came in together, brought me two letters from you; the case of good things, of which it is often said, that but two of them come over in three ships. The abbé de la Ville's letter, for I am sure it is his, is but superficial; he might have made more of the subject; but, however, it is prettily writ. * * * * *

Whether the tone of that court be peace or war, it differs only in point of time; for a peace there will necessarily be. If prudence makes it soon, it will be so much the better; but if sanguine folly delays it, necessity will, before it is long, make it, and make a damn'd bad one. We have not, nor can have, any force to look the French in the face with, till the middle of the campaign; before which time, they will have struck their stroke, and the republic will beg, instead of refusing, a peace.

I have desired Kreuningen to send me any good new French books that come out, and to give them to you, who will pay him for them, and transmit them to me. And I insist upon your sending me the account, that I may pay you. Our bookfellers here import no books worth two-pence. * * * * *

L E T T E R XXIV.

TO THE SAME.

London, Jan. 26, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

THIS letter goes to you, in that confidence, which I always shall, and know that I safely may, place in you. And you will therefore not let one word of it transpire.
What

What * * * wrote to * * * I believe will, nay I am sure must, prove true. * * * * *

I tell you very truly, I long for rest and quiet, equally necessary to my present state, both of body and mind. Could I do any good, I would sacrifice some more quiet to it; but, convinced as I am that I can do none, I will indulge my ease, and preserve my character. I have gone through pleasures, while my constitution and my spirits would allow me. Business succeeded them; and I have now gone through every part of it, without liking it at all the better for being acquainted with it. Like many other things, it is most admired by those, who know it the least. And this one consideration would alone disgust one of it, even if one had the sole power; which is, that in this country one must, for political reasons, frequently prefer the most unworthy to the most worthy, and prostitute to importunity and undeserving greediness the rewards of merit. Thus weary of business, you will easily imagine, that in retiring from my present business, I shall not engage in any other; but far from embarking upon any account in cabals and opposition, whenever I do take any part in the house of lords, it shall be in support of the government. Do not think neither that I mean a fullen retirement from the world; on the contrary, my retreat from business will give me both more time and better spirits for the enjoyment of social life, from which I will never withdraw myself. What day I shall resign the seals, is not yet fixed: therefore I desire that you will not, upon any account, mention one word of this letter, or give the least intimation to any one living, that you know any thing of this resolution. As I know the warmth of your friendship for me, and at the same time the warmth of your temper, I most earnestly recommend to you, nay I insist upon your being discreet, when this event shall become public. There are those at the Hague, who will be glad to lay hold of any little slip of yours, in order to do you an injury: disappoint them by your discretion, and say nothing more upon it, than that you knew that my health required exercise, and my temper quiet; and that you know too, that whenever I can, as a private man, be of any use to the king or to the public, I shall act the same out of place, as I should have done in. This conduct I shall look upon as
a proof

a proof of your friendship, and not of your coolness for me. As I shall always have a satisfaction in hearing from you, write to me from time to time as usual. * * *

Adieu for this time, my dear Dayrolles; and be convinced that, knowing, as I do, your merit, your good heart, your truth, and your affection, I shall, though hereafter a very useless one, be ever your

Very faithful friend,

CHESTERFIELD.

LETTER XXV.

TO THE SAME.

London, Feb. 9, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

L*E sort est jetté* (the die is cast): you receive this letter from a sincere friend, but not from a secretary of state; and I know you to be so true a friend too, that I am sure you value it more in the former character than in the latter. Last Saturday I resigned the seals into the king's hands, who parted with me in the most gracious manner possible. My health, my spirits, and my character all concurred in this measure, and made it absolutely necessary for me. I retire without any personal quarrel with any man whatsoever; and if I disapproved of measures, it was by no means upon account of their authors. Far from engaging in opposition, as resigning ministers too commonly do, I shall, to the utmost of my power, support the king and his government, which I can do with more advantage to them, and more honor to myself, when I do not receive five thousand pounds a year for doing it. I shall now, for the first time in my life, enjoy that philosophical quiet, which, upon my word, I have long wished for. While I was able, that is, while I was young, I lived in a constant dissipation and tumult of pleasures; the hurry and plague of business

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