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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 XXV. To The Same.

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TO HIS FRIENDS. BOOK II. LET. XXIV. XXV. 177

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,

LE sort est jetté (the die is cast): you receive this letter from a fincere friend, but not from a fecretary 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 refigned 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 whatloever; and if I disapproved of measures, it was by no means upon account of their authors. Far from engaging in opposition, as refigning 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 VOL. III.

either in or out of court succeeded, and continued till now. And it is now time to think of the only real comforts in the latter end of life, quiet, liberty, and health. Do not think, by the way, that by quiet and retirement, I mean folitude and misanthropy; far from it: my philosophy, as you know, is of a chearful and focial nature. My horse, my books, and my friends, will divide my time pretty equally; I shall not keep less company, but only better, for I shall chuse it. Therefore do not fear finding me. whenever you take a little turn here, morofe and cynical: on the contrary, you will find me as gentle as a dove, but alas! not so amorous. At least, whatever else you find me, you will always find me with the truest affection,

Yours, &c.

CHESTERFIELD.

P. S. Pray make my compliments to my baron, and thank him both for his books and his letters: I will do it myself very soon.

LETTER XXVI.

TO THE SAME.

Bath, Feb. 23, O. S. 1748.

IVIE voice mon cher enfant (here I am, my dear boy), enjoying liberty and idleness, but attended with a great cold, which I got upon the road, in the coldest weather, and the deepest snow that I ever remember. This has hindered me from drinking the waters hitherto; but that is no great matter, as I came here more for the fake of quiet, and abfence from London, while I was the only subject of conversation there, than for any great occasion that I had for

Without affectation, I feel most sensibly the comforts