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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 XXXVII. To The Same.

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L E T T E R XXXVII.

TO THE SAME.

London, Sep. 2, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I RECEIVED very safe, by fir Matthew Decker, your long letter of the 23 Aug. O. S. in which you give me what I had long desired, *l'histoire amoureuse de la Haye*. As I am personally acquainted with most of the characters, I am convinced that all the facts are true, and I particularly foresee the ruin of one family, from the ill conduct of the lady, which will not be endured, when the honey moon is over. I am now an unconcerned spectator of the transactions of the gallant, as well as of the busy, part of the world, the first from necessity, the latter from choice; so that I only inform myself of them for my amusement, without being any otherwise affected by them than as a citizen of the world. As such, I am glad that the horrors and devastations of war are now suspended; but as such too, I am sorry to foresee the moment of their revival so near, as I think I do, I mean the death of the king of Sweden. If you will have my prophetic politics, here they are. I think that the queen of Hungary has made all these difficulties of coming into the definitive treaty, not in the expectation of succeeding in any one of them, but only with the intention of delaying the return of the Russians, and of forming a plan with Russia, and possibly *some princes* of the empire, for the recovery of Silesia. Upon this supposition, I expect that she will very soon come into the definitive treaty, in order to be able to employ all her force *elsewhere*. The death of the king of Sweden is, in my opinion, to be the signal of this northern war. The czarina will not suffer the prince successor to succeed; this prince successor is brother-in-law to the king of Prussia, who has lately, in conjunction with France, guaranteed that succession to him. Reinforcements of Russians are marched into Finland; our Russians loiter in Germany: to me the conclusion is plain.

I am

I am glad that my old friend Vanderduyn * has got a pension, but I am astonished at the size of it. A thousand pounds a year sounds like an English pension; *d'ailleurs*, he has a regiment of guards and a government. This is certain, that the money will not stagnate in my general's strong box, but circulate very quickly through the Hague. *A propos* of the quick circulation of species, it is fixed that lord Holderness is to be our ambassador to the republic. Adieu for this time; you shall hear from me more fully before it is long.

Yours faithfully,

CHESTERFIELD.

LETTER XXXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

London, Sept. 23, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I Thank you for your promise of a second tome of your *histoire amoureuse*, when an occasion shall present itself; for, upon my word, Petronius nor Buffy (a) could not write a better than your first. The winter, which will assemble every body at the Hague, will probably furnish you materials.

Your towns and provinces seem to be running a race to the goal of slavery; and they put me in mind of the nobles and commons in Denmark, who in the last century strove which should first get rid of their liberties. Your Stadthouder must have great self-denial, or

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great

* Lieutenant general Vanderduyn, brother to M. de Sgravemoer, one of the college of nobles in the province of Holland.

(a) That witty, vain, and most indiscreet count, wrote a satyrical account of the gallantries of the French court, in the time of Lewis XIV; in which having taken unbecoming liberties with regard to his master, he was banished at a distance from Paris, and remained there several years, notwithstanding his cringing and servile efforts, to recover the favour of the sovereign.