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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 XL. To The Same.

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L E T T E R XL.

T O T H E S A M E.

Bath, Nov. 4, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I Have received yours of the 5th, N. S. and am glad to find, that your landed estate pays so well as to make up the arrears of the treasury. As soon as I go to town, which will be next week, I will quicken Mr. Pelham to pay his debts; but *en tout cas* I repeat it again, upon any emergency, draw upon me, for, upon my word, such sums as you can want will be no inconveniency to me to advance. You are besides very responsible, whether considered as a money'd or as a landed man; so that if you should be backward in payment, I should forthwith seize Henley park.

A propos of money, as I believe it is much wanted by many people, even of fashion, both in Holland and Flanders, I should think it very likely that many good pictures of Rubens, Teniers, and other Flemish and Dutch masters, may be picked up now at reasonable rates. If so, you are likely to hear of it as a *virtuoso*; and if so, I should be glad to profit of it, as an humble *dillettante*. I have already, as you know, a most beautiful landscape by Rubens, and a pretty little piece of Teniers; but if you could meet with a large capital history or allegorical piece of Rubens, with the figures as big as the life, I would go pretty deep to have it, as also for a large and capital picture of Teniers. But as I would give a good deal for them, if they were indisputably eminent, I would not give three pence for them unless they were so. I have pretty pictures enough already; but what I want to complete my collection, is only two or three of the most eminent masters, of whom I have none now. I can trust entirely to your taste and skill; so that if you meet with such a thing, do not miss it for fifty pounds more or less.

The

The packet of *brochures*, and flourished ruffles, which you sent me by Hop, waits for me in town. I am sure, by the former which you sent me, I shall like these: *je m'en fi à votre bon goût* (I trust your taste). I shall go to them in about ten days, though, I doubt, not quite restored by these waters, which have not had their usual effects upon me this season. My vertigos still chicane and teaze me, though not quite so frequently as formerly, but still enough to make me fear passing a languid and uncomfortable winter. Patience: I might have more painful complaints, and I will comfort myself by the comparison.

I have some reasons to believe, that what my baron mentioned to me of a new successor to Sweden, is by no means groundless. I am very sorry for it, as I think it can only be attended with very ill consequences for this country.

I look upon your republic as a chaos, in the situation which it is now in; some order may spring from it, but as yet, God knows what. The antient government certainly does not exist, and I see no new one established in its stead. Abject court, it is true, is made to the prince of Orange, from fear on one hand, and hopes on the other; but still, while he has more power than he should have for the late form of government, and yet less than is necessary to carry on any other, it is no government all. This was the great difficulty, under which Cromwell, one of the ablest men in the world, laboured, and which he was sensible of, when he wanted to be declared king; for he was above minding the title. But he knew, that his government wanted that form and consistency, which was necessary for its effect and authority.

The peace is, upon the whole, better than could have been expected, from the circumstances and hurry in which it was made.

I fear you will not get a furlow this winter; for I do not find that lord Holderneffe is yet making any preparations for his embassy. *Bon soir; aimons-nous toujours.* (Good night; let us love each other for ever.)