



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

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 XLI. To The Same.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52077](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52077)

LETTER XLI.

TO THE SAME.

London, Dec. 6, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

BY the death of poor John, you have lost a true friend, and I a most affectionate brother and friend into the bargain. The gout fell upon his bowels and head, and threw him into the convulsions, of which he died.

I acknowledge now your last of the 6th, N. S. together with your former letters, which my brother's illness, and a hurry of other affairs, hindered me from answering sooner. * * * * *

The prices of Van-Huysen's flower-pieces, notwithstanding the scarcity of money in Holland, is owing only to that local phrenzy, which always prevails in Holland, for some pretty trifling object: tulips, hyacinths, and pigeons, have all had their days, and now Van-Huysen has his. But while these high-finished finical pieces bear such high prices, the bold and masterly pieces of the last and foregoing century are slighted, and more likely to come reasonably. Do not, by any means, suffer that capital picture of Rubens, which you say is to be sold at Brussels, to slip through your hands, by the delay of sending me a drawing of it, if you can; but be sure that it is an original, and not damaged. Wherefore, upon the two conditions, of its being an undoubted original and not damaged, buy it me as soon as you can, or some other body may step in between.

Captain Irwin*, whom I believe you know, son to the old general, goes by the next packet-boat to Holland; he has got a furloe from his father for a year, during which time, he intends to see as much as he can abroad. I think him a good pretty young fellow; and considering that he has never been yet out of his native country, much more *presentable* than one could expect. Pray, carry him
to

* Now lieutenant-general and commander in chief of his majesty's forces in Ireland.

to court, and into some companies, where I think you will not be ashamed of him, which will seldom be your case with my countrymen. I promised him that I would recommend him to you. *Adieu, mon cher enfant.* I am so hurried by lawyers, appraisers, and creditors, that I can say no more now.

C.

P. S. A propos, do not mention to any body, that the picture is for me, or what it may cost.

L E T T E R XLII.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, Dec. 13, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

MY former was almost an answer, before-hand, to your last letter, which I received the day after I had wrote mine; I mean, with regard to the Rubens, which I desired you not to slip. But I am now more confirmed in that opinion, by the drawing, which you sent me, and by the assurances that you give me of the picture's being a capital one, and in high preservation. Therefore, secure it as cheap as you can; the subject, as you observe, might have been a more pleasing one; but this admits of great expression.

The family piece, which you mention by Vandyke, I would not give six shillings for, unless I had the honor of being of sir Melchior's family. The several portraits are, I dare say, finely painted; but then, where is the action, where the expression? The good man and his wife generally sit serene in a couple of easy chairs, surrounded by five or six of their children, insignificantly motionless in the presence of papa and mamma. And the whole family seem as insipid and weary as when they are really together. Their likenesses may indeed be valuable to their own posterity; but in my mind to nobody else,

Titian