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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 XLII. To The Same.

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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

Titian has done more skilfully in his fine picture of the Cornaro family, which he has put in action.

The Venus and Adonis of Vandyke, of which you likewise sent me the drawing, I do not care for, as it is a subject already *rebattu* by still greater masters, and in my mind better, as far as I can judge by the drawing; for Adonis, when he tears himself away from Venus, seems fierce and angry, which I see no occasion for. He is determined, indeed, to leave her for his field sports, but should, in my opinion, soften the rudeness by all possible complaisance in his words and looks.

So much for *virtù*, which, when I shall have bought this picture, I have done with, unless a very capital Teniers should come in your way. You will draw upon me for the money as soon as ever you please. * * *

Could you send me, in some of your letters, some seed of the right canteloupe melons? I should not know what to do with more than a dozen or at most twenty of them; so that all the seed I shall want will neither increase the bulk or weight of a letter. The canteloupes are, in my opinion, the best sort of melon; at least they always succeed best here. It is for Blackheath that I want it, where you can easily judge that my melon ground is most exceedingly small. I am obliged to keep that place for seven years, my poor brother's lease being for that time; and I doubt I could not part with it but to very great loss, considering the sums of money that he had laid out upon it. For otherwise, I own that I like the country up, much better than down, the river.

As I promised to send captain Irwin a couple of letters to the Hague, for Paris, I must put you to the expence of inclosing them to you, and to the trouble of giving them to him, not knowing how to direct them for him.

Yours faithfully,

C.

LET-