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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 XLVI. To The Same.

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I am rejoiced to hear that I shall have another tome of the *histoire amoureuse*; for now that, thank God, I have no business, that kind of reading amuses me. The *histoire politique* of the United Provinces would at present be but a gloomy one. I see no government there at all; but I see power without authority, and expence without the possible means of supplies. The prince of Orange wants a Sully. The reduction of the troops will be a decisive point: if it is a considerable one, the prince of Orange is nobody; and if it is not, the republic is undone.

My house and garden employ both my thoughts and my time. I am at work about them all day, and shall take possession of them in about a month; there I shall be impatient to see you, and there I believe you will not be sorry to see,

Yours,

CHESTERFIELD.

LETTER XLVI.

TO THE SAME.

London, Feb. 3, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE honoured your bill, as they call it; but properly speaking I have done better, for I have paid it. I think you have brought me off very cheaply, and so much so that I shall not own it, when I shew the picture, but intimate a much higher price; for you *virtuosos*, I know, often take the price into your consideration, in forming your judgments as to the value of a thing. I sincerely forgive you the three florins, which your curiosity costs me, and will never demand that sum of either you or your heirs, administrators, or assigns. Besides that I really think, that a gratification of three florins is by no means unreasonable for the trouble you have been at. I can tell you by the way, that when my pictures, bronzes, and marbles shall come to be properly placed, as they will be in
my

my new house, the collection will not appear a contemptible one. There will be nothing, that is not excellent of the kind. I hope you will be here time enough to direct me in the arrangement; for lord Holdernesse is now preparing in good earnest for his embassy, and talks of going soon, that is, in two or three months. He has appointed parson Tindal, who translated Rapin, and well, to be both his chaplain and his secretary; he goes first, as I hear, without madame, who is to follow him some time afterwards. But though, as you will easily believe, I am impatient to see you, I would not advise you to ask leave to come over immediately upon his arrival, but to stay a couple of months at least after it.

I had a letter the other day from my baron, by which he seems to be pretty well comforted, and to thirst again for pamphlets, of which I have sent him a fresh cargo. Pray when you see *l'ami (a)*, make him my compliments, and assure him of my esteem and friendship. I suppose *qu'il n'est pas question de lui à la cour*. As for your republic, it is undone, and I think of it no more. *Conclamatum est.*

L E T T E R XLVII.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, Feb. 24, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

TH E picture is arrived, and is, in my mind, the best I ever saw of Rubens; but as yet I have only my own opinion for it, as I have not shewn it, nor will not, till it is in perfect order. A little of the varnish, in some immaterial parts, was rubbed off in the carriage, but the painting not in the least damaged. I have given it to Anderson, who is a very safe man, to take off that crust of varnish, with which they are so apt to load their pictures, in Flanders and Holland; and when this picture shall be delivered
of

(a) I believe Mr. Duncan, favourite to the prince, before his elevation to the Stadtholdership, and employed in London, to settle the articles of his marriage with the princess royal. He was lord Chesterfield's most particular friend.