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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 XLVII. To The Same.

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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 foon, that is, in two or three months. He has appointed parfon Tindal, who translated Rapin, and well, to be both his chaplain and his fecretary; he goes first, as I hear, without madame, who is to follow him fome time afterwards. But though, as you will eafily believe, I am impatient to see you, I would not advise you to ask leave to come over immediately upon his arrival, but to flay a couple of months at least after it.

I had a letter the other day from my baron, by which he feems to be pretty well comforted, and to thirst again for pamphlets, of which I have fent him a fresh cargo. Pray when you fee l'ami (a), make him my compliments, and affure him of my efteem 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

eft.

LETTER XLVII.

TO THE SAME.

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

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HE picture is arrived, and is, in my mind, the best I ever faw 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 immeterial 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 fafe 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

(a) I believe Mr. Duncan, favourite to the prince, before his eleva tion to the Stadthoudership, and employed in London, to settle the articles of his marriage with the princefs royal. He was lord Chefterfield's most particular friend.

TO HIS FRIENDS. BOOK I, LET. XLVII. XLVIII. 207

of it, it will be quite another thing. The figure of the virgin is the most graceful and beautiful that I ever saw, and not so Flemish-built as most of his women are. In short, the whole is excellent. The frame, though not a fashionable is a handsome one, and shall, with the addition that I will make to it, be a fine one. I do not diflike fomething a little antique in the frame of an old picture; provided it be rich, I think it more respectable. As soon as the supreme connoisseurs shall have sat upon it, I will let you know their verdict; not that for my own part I care two-pence about it, for I distrust the skill of most, and the truth of all, of them. They pronounce according to the pictures, that they either have or have nor, or that they want to buy or fell of the same hand. You are an excellent commissionaire, and my most dutiful thanks attend you for your care and trouble.

Pray, do not let your maladie du païs hurry you into any étour derie.

Pray, tell my baron that I took particular care to fend him the Enquiry into the conduct and principles of the two brothers; fo that it must necessarily have been taken out of the pacquet. Possibly they have no mind that it should be dispersed abroad. I will send it him again the first opportunity.

Adieu. Yours faithfully,

CHESTERFIELD.

LETTER XLVIII.

TOTHE SAME.

London, March 9, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

* * * * UPON my foul, I long to fee you, for two reasons, which I have not for longing to fee many people; they are, that I love you, and that I know you love me. I shall keep a little room for you at Blackheath, where I will refresh you with the best ananas and melons in England.

Pray,