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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 XLIX. To The Same.

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Pray, tell monsieur Slingelandt that I have spoke to Rutter about the horse in question, and the better to know whether he was gentle enough for him, I asked him whether he was enough so for me; to which Rutter could not answer in the affirmative, so that I bid him not send him. I take it for granted that monsieur Slingelandt, who is a civil quiet gentleman as well as myself, chuses, as I do, a horse like Père Canaye's *qualem me decet esse mansuetum* (a); which serene kind of beast is still more necessary in Holland, in the midst of canals and windmills, than here. * *

Bon soir, mon ami.

L E T T E R XLIX.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, March 31, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES.

Hôtel Chesterfield.

* * * * I C A N tell you nothing, with any degree of certainty, of the squabbles among our ministers. That there are some is undoubtedly true; but then, in the reports, they are either magnified or lessened, according to the wishes or the interests of the reporters. Their two graces are evidently very ill together; which I long ago knew, and said could not fail. * * * *

I am got into my new house, from whence I shall be a most unconcerned spectator. I have yet finished nothing but my *boudoir* and my library; the former is the gayest and most chearful room in England, the latter the best. My garden is now turfed, planted, and sown, and will, in two months more, make a scene of verdure and flowers, not common in London.

Anderson has restored the Rubens perfectly well, by taking off that damned varnish, with which it was loaded, and

(a) See S. Evremond's most ingenious piece intituled, *Conversation du maréchal d'Hoquincourt, & ec le Père Canaye.*

and fetching out the original painting. The *connoisseurs* have sat upon it, and, what is extraordinary, are unanimous in declaring it one of the best in England. Many have guessed it at £.800, none less than £.500. *Je les laisse dire, et je ne dis rien*; (I let them speak, and say nothing).

I do not care for the Teniers you mention; both my picture-rooms being completely filled, the great one with capital pictures, the cabinet with *bijoux*. So that I will buy no more, till I happen to meet with some very capital ones of some of the most eminent old Italian masters, such as Raphael, Guido, Corregio, &c. and in that case I would make an effort.

I will look out for a horse fit for Mr. Slingelandt, of which I think I am a better judge than a better horseman. You may tell him I shall not much regard the beauty of it, but the intrinsic merit. I desire he should be safe; for I love him both upon his own account and his father's.

I agree with you that my baron, far from travelling into other countries, will never more see his own, or put on a coat. He will think that he has escaped infection so providentially now, that I am apt to think he will endeavour to trust providence no more.

Yours most sincerely,

C.

L E T T E R L.

TO THE SAME.

London, April, 4, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

SINCE my last to you, I have received your two letters of the 8th, and 11th, N. S. together with the pamphlet in Dutch, which you sent me by general Elliot, who delivered it to me very safe. It has made me rub up my almost forgotten Dutch; and I think I understand the meaning of it perfectly. It is extremely well written; and I dare say the facts are all as true, as the reasonings

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