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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 L. To The Same.

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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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upon

upon them are just. It coincides with, and confirms, all the notions I had formed of the present state of affairs in the republic. I should be obliged to you if you would inform me, who is either the real, or supposed, author of it. Whoever he is, he is well informed. I am very much obliged to you for sending it me: I have laid it by carefully, with my own predictions of general bankruptcy and confusion, which I fear a little time more will accomplish.

General Elliot * *est un dégourdi, et du bon ton*. I have not seen an Englishman more regenerated by being abroad than he is. I met him at Hop's before I knew who he was; and I was astonished to find a man, who spoke English so well, behave himself so well.

I differ with you in opinion about the king of Prussia's two very different letters to the two poets; for I am persuaded that they are both genuine. Should the two poets happen to compare notes, such is human vanity, and still more such is poetical vanity, that each would be convinced that the other was the dupe, and himself his majesty's most favoured poet. *S'il fait bon battre les glorieux, il fait aussi bon les tromper (a)*. In the first case they do not complain, in the second they do not even see. * * * * *

Yours most affectionately,

CHESTERFIELD.

LETTER LI.

TO THE SAME.

London, April 25, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I Am now three letters in your debt, which I would have paid more punctually, if I had any tolerable current species to have paid you in: but I have nothing but farthings

* Lieutenant-general in the Dutch service.

(a) An allusion to a French proverb; amounting to this, that *vain men will equally bear being drubbed and being deceived*.