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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 LI. To The Same.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52077](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52077)

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.

L E T T E R L I.

T O T H E S A M E.

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*.

things to offer, and most of them too counterfeit, for, being, thank God, no longer concerned in the coinage, I cannot answer for the weight of the coin. I hear, as every body does, more lies than truth, and am not in a situation of knowing which is which. * * * * *

However disjointedly business may go on, pleasures, I can assure you, go roundly. To-morrow there is to be, at Ranelagh garden, a masquerade in the Venetian manner. It is to begin at three o'clock in the afternoon; the several *loges* are to be shops for toys, *limonades*, *glaces*, and other *raffaichissemens*. The next day come the fire-works, at which hundreds of people will certainly lose their lives or their limbs, from the tumbling of scaffolds, the fall of rockets, and other accidents inseparable from such crowds. In order to repair this loss to society, there will be a subscription-masquerade on the Monday following, which, upon calculation, it is thought, will be the occasion of getting about the same number of people as were destroyed at the fire-works.

I hear nothing yet of lord Holderness's going to Holland, and therefore do not ask you when I may hope to see you here, for I suppose that his arrival must be previous to your departure; moreover, I am told, that you are so busy in moving from one house to another, that you could not yet move from one country to another. Where is your new dwelling at the Hague?

I am glad to hear that madame de Berkenroodt goes ambassadress to Paris; she will pass her time well there, and she deserves it. Pray make her my compliments of congratulation, and tell her that I am strongly tempted to pay my respects to her at Paris myself; but that, if I cannot, I will at least do it by proxy this winter twelvemonth, and send her an ambassador about forty years younger, and consequently forty times better than myself. My boy will then be at Paris; he is now at Venice, goes to Turin till November, and then to Rome till the October following, when I shall emancipate him at Paris. I hear so well of him from all quarters, that I think he will do. *Adieu, portez-vous bien, et aimez moi toujours.*