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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 LIX. To The Same.

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undergone lustrations enough to be sufficiently purified for his reception. Every thing here is just as you left it. I am, and ever shall be so, with regard to you : *c'est tout dire ; bon soir, mon enfant.*

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LETTER LIX.

TO THE SAME.

London, May 25, O. S. 1750.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I FIND your journey through Flanders has been, like every man's journey through the world, some good and some bad; but upon the whole, it was as well as being at the Hague. By what you observed, it is evident that the court of Vienna will not lay out a shilling upon the barrier towns, but throw that burthen, as they do every other, upon the maritime powers, saying that they get nothing by Flanders, but that it is our business to take care of it. I am an Austrian in my politics, and would support that house if I could: but then I would be their ally, not their bubble; their friend, but not their victim.

With your leave, sir, it is none of Boden's trumpery that is to hang over against the Rubens, but a holy family, the master-piece of Titian, for which the late regent had agreed to give forty thousand livres to the chapter of Rheims. It was accordingly sent him; but when it arrived at Paris, he was dead and gone, not to the holy family I believe. His son, the present duke of Orleans, chose rather to return the picture than the money; the chapter was obliged to take it back, and there it remained ever since. I accidentally heard of this, and that the chapter was special poor, upon which I determined to try what I could do, and I have succeeded. As this picture was brought from Italy by the famous cardinal de Lorraine, after he had been at the council of Trent, and given by him to the cathedral



cathedral of Rheims, of which he was archbishop, he gave them at the same time his own picture, a whole length, done by Titian; which I have likewise got: they are both arrived at Paris, and I expect them here very soon. This, you will allow, is no trumpery, and I have now done with pictures; I am brim full, and not ill filled.

Comte Obdam's *virtù* will, I think, for the reason you give, go very cheap; few people in Holland understanding those things, or even thinking that they do. I would not give sixpence for his bronzes, nor a shilling for his books; but for some of his antique marbles, I would give reasonably. Those which, upon the face of the catalogue, I should chuse, are the following ones.

297 *Hermes (Buste) juvenis Romani cum lorica et fago, in mar more. Ant.*

298 *Bacchus, cum corona bederacea. Ant.*

302 *Caput juvenis Romani, supra basin. Ant.*

305 *Statua cum anaglyphis, sacrificium in honorem Priapi efformantibus. Ant.*

There are also in the appendix two bustos, one of Homer, the other of Apollo, by Girardon, which, if they go extremely cheap, as possibly they may, I should be glad of them; by extremely cheap, I mean about ten pounds a-piece. For the four antiques above-marked, *l'un portant l'autre*, (one with another) if they are fine, I would go as far as five and twenty pounds apiece. But should these, which I have mentioned, have great faults, and others, which I have not mentioned, have great beauties, I refer to your decision, who are upon the place, and have *un coup d'oeil vif et pénétrant* (a quick and penetrating eye.)

You will see Hop at the Hague next week; it is sooner than he proposed to go, but he is ordered, which gives him some apprehensions. You will also see the famous madame du Boccage, who sets out from hence with her husband, and abbé Guasco *de l'académie des inscriptions*, next Tuesday. She has translated Milton into French verse, and gave a tragedy last winter at Paris, called *les Amazones*. She has good parts, *n'affiche pas le bel-esprit*, (and does not make an ostentatious display of wit.) Pray give them *un petit diner*, and let them know that I did them justice with you; they stay but a few days at the Hague,



Hague, so cannot be very troublesome to you. But I possibly shall, if I lengthen this letter: so, *bon soir*.

C.

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L E T T E R LX.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, June 19, O. S. 1750.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I Must say as most fools do, *Who would have thought it?* My fine Titian has turned out an execrable bad copy. By good luck, the condition of the obligation was such, that if certain good judges at Paris should declare it, either a copy, or essentially damaged, the chapter of Rheims was to take it back again, I paying the carriage. This has happened, and the best painters in Paris pronounced it not only a copy, but a damned one. So that I am only in for the carriage back. The chapter must have been more fools than knaves in the affair; for, had they known it to be a copy, they must have known, at the same time, that it would be returned them, by which they would get nothing but the discrediting of their picture for ever.

I have received a letter from madame du Boccage, containing a panegyric of his majesty's resident at the Hague. *Il est très aimable, très poli, il est au mieux avec tout ce qu'il y a de meilleur ici, et il fait très-bonne chère.* (He is very amiable, very polite, extremely well received in the best company, and keeps an excellent table.) *Faire bonne chère* (to keep a good table) you know, always sums up a French panegyrick. She says, that by your means she received a thousand civilities at the Hague. I do not know whether my friend abbé Guasco's judgment in *virtù* will be of any great service to us at comte Obdam's, and I would sooner trust to your own *coup d'oeil, qui est mordieu vif et perçant*.

I am