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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 LXXV. To The Same.

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L E T T E R LXXV.

T O T H E S A M E .

Bath, Oct. 18, 1752.

D E A R D A Y R O L L E S ,

YOUR last letter of the 6th, and my last of the 10th, crossed one another somewhere upon the road; for I received yours four days after I had sent mine. I think I rather gain ground, by the waters and other medicines: but if I do, it is but slowly, and by inches. I hear the person, who sits or stands near me, and who directs his voice in a strait line to me, but I hear no part of a mixed conversation, and consequently am no part of society. However I bear my misfortune better than I believe most other people would; whether from reason, philosophy, or constitution, I will not pretend to decide. If I have no very chearful, at least I have no melancholy moments. Books employ most of my hours agreeably, and some few objects, within my own narrow circle, excite my attention enough to preserve me from *ennui*.

The chief of those objects is now with you; and I am very glad that he is, because I expect, from your friendship, a true and confidential account of him. You will have time to analyse him; and I do beg of you to tell me the worst, as well as the best, of your discoveries. When evils are incurable, it may be the part of one friend to conceal them from another; but at his age, when no defect can have taken so deep a root as to be immoveable, if proper care be taken, the friendly part is rather to tell me his defects than his perfections. I promise you, upon my honor, the most inviolable secrecy. Among the defects, that possibly he may have, I know one that I am sure he has; it is indeed a negative fault, a fault of omission, but still it is a very great fault, with regard to the world. He wants that engaging address, those pleasing manners, those little attentions, that air, that *abond*, and those graces, which all conspire to make that first advantageous impression upon people's minds, which

which is of such infinite use through the whole course of life. It is a sort of magic power, which prepossesses one at first sight in favour of that person, makes one wish to be acquainted with him, and partial to all he says and does. I will maintain it to be more useful in business than in love. This most necessary varnish we want too much: pray recommend it strongly. * * * * *

He has, I dare say, told you, how exceedingly kind the duke of Newcastle was to him at Hanover, for he wrote me word with transport of it. *Faites un peu valoir cela*, when you happen either to see or to write to his grace, but only as from yourself and historically. Add too, that you observe that I was extremely affected with it. In truth, I do intend to give him to the two brothers from their own, and have nothing else to ask of either, but their acceptance of him. In time, he may possibly not be quite useless to them. I have given him such an education, that he may be of use to any court, and I will give him such a provision, that he shall be a burthen to none.

As for my godson, who, I assure you without compliment, enjoys my next warmest wishes, you go a little too fast, and think too far beforehand. No plan can possibly be now laid down for the second seven years. His own natural turn and temper must be first discovered, and your then situation will and ought to decide his destination. But I will add one consideration with regard to these first seven years. It is this: Pray, let my godson never know what a blow or a whipping is, unless for those things for which, were he a man, he would deserve them; such as lying, cheating, making mischief, and meditated malice. In any of those cases, however young, let him be most severely whipped. But either to threaten or whip him, for falling down, bepissing himself, or not standing still to have his head combed and his face washed, is a most unjust and absurd severity; and yet all these are the common causes of whipping. This hardens them to punishment, and confounds them as to the causes of it; for, if a poor child is to be whipped equally for telling a lye, or for a snotty nose, he must of course think them equally criminal. Reason him, by fair means, out of all those things, for which he will not be the worse man; and flog him severely for those things only, for which the law would punish him as a man.

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I have ordered Mr. Stanhope to pass six weeks in Flanders, making Bruffels his head quarters. I think he cannot know it as he should do in less time; for I would have him see all the considerable towns there, and be acquainted and *faufilé* at Bruffels, where there is a great deal of good company, and, as I hear, a very polite court.— From thence he is to go to Holland for three months. Pray, put him *au fait* of the Hague, which nobody can do better than you. I shall put him into Kreuningens hands there, for the reading, and the constitutional part of the republic, of which I would have him most thoroughly informed. If, by any letters, you can be of use to him there, I know you will. I would fain have him know every thing of that country, of that government, of that court, and of that people perfectly well. Their affairs and ours always have been, and always will be, intimately blended; and I should be very sorry that, like nine in ten of his countrymen, he should take Holland to be the republic of the seven united provinces, and the states-general for the sovereign. *Mais a force d'être sourd je deviens bavard,* (deafness makes me loquacious,) so a good night to you with madame Dayrolles; and I think that is wishing you both very well.

Yours most sincerely,

CHESTERFIELD.

L E T T E R LXXVI.

TO THE SAME.

Bath, Oct. 25, 1752.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I Have this instant received yours of the 17th. If you are not partial to what belongs to me, I will hope, by your account, that your little friend is improved in his air and manners; there was undoubtedly great room for it. If he does not divert himself so well at Bruffels, as from the reputation of Bruffels one might expect, he will