



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

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 XCV. To The Same.

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

only give you my own short conjecture, upon what little I see and hear myself. I think I see every thing gravitating to Fox's center, and I am persuaded that in six months time he will be the minister. * * * * *

My compliments to Mrs. Dayrolles; *et. adieu, mon cher ami.*

L E T T E R XCV.

TO THE SAME.

London, Feb. 4, 1755.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

DEAF men and dead men differ very little except in one point, which is, that letters from the dead would be very curious, and probably very instructive; whereas those from the deaf must necessarily be very dull. Were I dead, and allowed to write, you should hear from me much oftener, as my letters would be like those of the missionary Jesuits, *curieuses et édifiantes* (a), and well worth the postage, though it would probably be considerable, *car il y a bien loin de ce país-là*, (as the distance is great.) But being only deaf, crazy, and declining, I consider both your time and your purse, which would be but ill employed in reading, and paying for, such letters as mine.

Notwithstanding my state of ignorance and solitude, I dare say you will expect some news from me, now that you read every day of fitting out great fleets, and raising additional troops. It is true, that we are equipping a very great fleet, which is to be commanded by lord Anson, and three other admirals; and we are raising some

(a) These are occasional accounts of the transactions of the Jesuits sent out to different parts of the world, for the conversion of the heathen to *their* Christian religion, which used to be published in French at Paris, and consist of about forty volumes in octavo. Amidst an immense quantity of trash, stories of wonderful events, encomiums of their zeal and address, miracles performed, christenings by stealth of infants and dying people, of their sufferings, persecutions, &c. a good deal of information, about the natural history of the countries, as well as the manners and characters of the inhabitants, may be picked up from these relations.

regiments

regiments of marines, in order to man it, which otherwise we found that we could not. From all these warlike preparations, the public is convinced that we shall have a war; but I am by no means so. I cannot see that it is the interest, nor can I believe that it is the inclination, of France, at this time, to bring on a general war; and I am very sure that we are absolutely unable to support one. I am, therefore, persuaded, that we are reciprocally endeavouring to intimidate each other, and that all this *levée de bouclier* (blustering) will end quietly in referring our American disputes to commissaries *de part et d'autre*, who will decide and settle them, much about the time that the tariff and the barriere shall be finally determined. Should we really come to hostilities in America, with advantage on our part, monsieur de Maillebois would very probably make another journey to Lower Saxony; in which case a second neutrality would be too dangerous either to accept or refuse, which is another reason why I think, that the dilemma will, if possible, be avoided. And indeed, upon the whole, I wish it may, considering our national debt, and the two very sore places, which we have, in Lower Saxony and the Highlands of Scotland. Another little circumstance, which seems to favour my pacific opinion, is the late hasty nomination of lord Hertford to the French embassy, and the hurry he is in to go there. A Frenchman who is now here, le comte d'Estaing, said the other day, *Pardieu, messieurs, ce seroit bien ridicule de faire casser la tête à dix mille hommes pour quelques douzaines de chapeaux*, (it would be absurd to have ten thousand men knocked on the head for a few dozen of hats,) alluding to the castors of North America.

The earl of Bristol is appointed envoy to Turin, to watch the motions of that court, in the room of the earl of Rochford, who is sent for home to receive the gold key.

In parliament, things go very quietly this session. Fox has evidently the lead there. Mr. Pitt rather hints, than declares, opposition. Legge is discontented, but silently so. The parliament is to be prorogued at Easter, and his majesty will set out for Hanover the day afterwards. He is to be attended, as I am informed, only by Sir Thomas Robinson.

For

For *un reclus, un solitaire, un sourd*, I think I have given you a great deal of news; at least I am sure I have given you all I have, and no man, you know, can do more. *

Yours,

C.

L E T T E R X C V I.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, May, 2, 1755.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

WHAT can a deaf hermit write? The repetition of my affection and friendship for you would be as dull, as I am persuaded it would be unnecessary; you are either convinced of them already, or you never will be so. Would you have news? Mine is always stale; and though I was the introducer of the new stile, in all those matters I go by the old, and am at least eleven days behind-hand.

I could tell you, but I will not, that the king sailed from Harwich last Monday; but I can tell you, and will, that the duke of Cumberland and Mr. Fox are appointed of the regency; the consequence of which new measure, I presume, you can tell yourself. Peace and war seem yet so uncertain, that nobody knows which to expect.—The people in general, who always wish whatever they have not, wish for a war; but I, who have learned to be content with whatever I have, wish for the continuation of peace. My country-folks think only of the new world, where they expect to conquer, and perhaps will, but I cannot help dreading the *contrecoup* of those triumphs in the old one. I have ninety-nine reasons against a land war in Europe; the first of which being that we are not able to carry it on, I will not trouble you with the others.

You