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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 C. To The Same.

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TO HIS FRIENDS. BOOK II. LET. XCIX. C. 277 months, been well for four and twenty hours together. Befides, all places are now alike to me, and I can be more alone at Bath, that any where. Adieu, my dear friend.

Yours, wherever I am,

C.

LETTER C.

TO THE SAME.

Bath, Oct 4, 1755.

DEAR DAYROLLES.

* * * * * * I HAVE been here now just a week; too little to have found much benefit, but, however, long enough to give me reason to hope, that I shall find some, for my stomach is rather less disordered than I brought it down with me here. But upon the whole, I am, and always shall be un pauvre corps, dont il ne vaut pas la peine de parler, (a poor wretch not worth men-

tioning.)

I think it impossible, that the French can insist upon more than a neutrality, on the part of the republic of the united provinces. Upon what pretence can they? But if they should, they cannot invade them, without first invading Flanders, and bringing the queen of Hungary upon their backs, which I cannot think them at prefent willing to do. But suppose they should, they will with ease over-run all Flanders in a fortnight, so that where will there be a field of battle left? We can fend no troops to Holland, that can be of any use. The Dutch have not enough to oppose a French army of 100,000 men; so that, in that case, they have nothing to do, but subir la loi du vainqueur (to yield to the conquerors.) But, depend upon it, things will not be carried to those extremities. The French, at this time, dread a general war. Their ministry is weak, and their king weaker; the clergy and the parliament,

LORD CHESTERFIELD'S LETTERS

hating each other irreconcileably, they have no general, in whom they have the least confidence; and by the interest they pay, it is plain they want money. From all this, and from our inevitable successes at sea, I take it for granted that a peace, and a reasonable one, will some how or other be jumbled up, in the course of seven or eight months; fo that, with all your ingenuity in anticipating misfortunes, I am perfuaded, that your journey to England next year will be merely a voluntary one, and not a necessary flight from where you now are.

The next fession, which now draws very near, will, I believe, be a very troublesome one; and I really think it very doubtful, whether the fubfidiary treaties, with Ruslia and Caffel, will be carried or not. To be fure, much may be faid against both, but yet I dread the consequences of rejecting them by parliament, fince they are made. But what have I to do with public matters? Moreover a man, who has not the whole thread of them, talks of them as a blind man does of colors; for the least circumstance unknown often changes the whole thing (a). This

I know perfectly, that I am truly,

Yours.

LETTER CI.

TO THE SAME.

London, Dec. 19, 1755.

DEAR DAYROLLES.

YOU will think me very lazy, for that I am fure is the worst thing, that you will ever suspect me of, with regard to yourself, in having been so long without answering your last. But it has not been

(a) That was really the case with regard to lord Chesterfield, who, at that time, was totally ignorant of the French court's alliances with the principal powers of Europe, and altered his opinion when he was acquainted with them, as appears by the following letters. But the fluctuations of mind of great men may be instructive, and their dreams, at least, are always entertaining.