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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 Cl. To The Same.

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hating each other irreconcilably, 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; so that, with all your ingenuity in anticipating misfortunes, I am persuaded, 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 session, which now draws very near, will, I believe, be a very troublesome one; and I really think it very doubtful, whether the subsidiary treaties, with Russia and Cassel, will be carried or not. To be sure, much may be said against both, but yet I dread the consequences of rejecting them by parliament, since 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.

L E T T E R C I.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, Dec. 19, 1755.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

YOU will think me very lazy, for that I am sure 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 quite

(*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.

quite laziness, for, some few days, business, and for many days, weakness, dispiritedness and languor would not allow me to put pen to paper; otherwise deaf people are commonly as frivolously *writative* as blind people are often frivolously talkative: but, when a general disorder and decay of the body is added to impenetrable deafness, one becomes too like a dead body to write any thing but a codicil.

Were I, now that I am writing, to pretend to send you but a short account of our transactions here, I must send you a large folio. The house of commons sits three or four times a week till nine or ten at night, and sometimes till four or five in the morning, so attentive are they to the good of their dear country. That zeal has of late transported them into much personal abuse * * *

Even our insignificant house sat one day last week, till past ten at night, upon the Russian and Hessian subsidiary treaties; but I was not able to sit it out, and left it at seven, more than half dead: for I took it into my head to speak upon them for near an hour, which fatigue, together with the heat of the house, very near annihilated me. I was for the Russian treaty, as a prudent eventual measure, at the beginning of a war, and probably preventive even of a war, in that part of the world; but I could not help exposing, though without opposing, the Hessian treaty, which is, indeed, the most extraordinary one I ever saw. It can have no effect; for you are not to have the troops till after you do not want them, viz. till six months after the requisition made; and after you dismiss the troops, should you ever call for them, the subsidy is to be doubled for the remainder of the term. It is certain, that his most serene highness is full as good at making a bargain, as any Jew in Europe.

Places, as you will see by the news-papers, are emptying and filling up every day. The patriot of Monday is the courtier of Tuesday, and the courtier of Wednesday is the patriot of Thursday. This indeed has more or less been long the case, but I really think never so imprudently and so profligately as now. The power is all falling from his grace's into Fox's hands, which, you may remember I told you long ago, would happen.

Besides

Besides these discords and misfortunes, we live here in dread of two others of a very different kind, an invasion from France, and a *bricole* of the earthquake from Lisbon. For myself I cannot say that I have any great apprehensions of either, but of the two, I have more faith in the earthquake than in the invasion. France has too often experienced the futility of those attempts. But be these things how they will, *réjouissez-vous autant que faire se pourra, et surtout portez-vous bien, car il n'y a rien de tel. Adieu, mon ami* (Rejoice as much as you can, and above all keep in health, for there is nothing like it.) Adieu, my friend.

L E T T E R C I I.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, Jan. 23, 1756.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

DO yourself justice, and you will cease to wonder at either the beginning, or the continuance, of my friendship for you. I soon discovered, and have now long experienced, the honest truth and warmth of your heart. Friendship, like health, is to be preserved by the same means, by which it is acquired, and I believe we shall neither of us *démentir* (forsake) those means.

Every thing tends more and more every day to the verification of my prophecy; for in our political balance, Fox's scale grows heavier and heavier, which every body perceives. * * * * *

We are here in daily expectation of a formal declaration of war from France, as it seems to be the natural consequence of the memorial sent by monsieur Rouillé to Mr. Fox, through Holland, which perhaps you have seen, but which no doubt you have heard the substance of, and therefore I shall not repeat it. I am not so fond of war, as I find many people are. *Mark the end on't.* Our treaty lately concluded with Prussia is a fortunate event, and secures the peace of the empire; and is it possible that
France