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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 CII. To The Same.

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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

France can invade the low countries, which are the dominions of the empress queen, only because admiral Boscawen has taken two of their ships in America? But then you will ask me probably, where can France annoy us then? I see but two places; in America, by slipping over, in single ships, a considerable number of troops, and next, by keeping us in a state of fear and expence at home, with the threats and appearances of an intended invasion, which, I dare say, they will not think proper to attempt in reality. In my opinion, our greatest danger arises from our expence, considering the present immense national debt. I take it for granted, that the Dutch will endeavour to obtain from France a neutrality, and I wish they may get one; for, I am sure, they have no other safety, for they can neither defend themselves, nor can we defend them. They have no longer any *barrière* in Flanders, and Maestricht and Bergen-op-zoom would not delay their ruin above three months, should the French think proper to *brusquer* Flanders to get at them.

I have been for some time, and am still, very much out of order, my complaints in my head and stomach being returned, so that I fear I shall be obliged to go to the Bath this season for a month or six weeks, which, though never a radical cure, is always a palliative for some time, and that is *autant de pris sur l'ennemi*. Whatever happens to my shattered carcase, God bless you all.

Yours faithfully,

C.

L E T T E R CIII.

TO THE SAME.

London, Feb. 3, 1756.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I AM too sensible of your affection for me, not to know that you will be impatient to hear what is become of me, after the account I gave you of myself in my last. This is therefore to inform you, that I am something, though