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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 CVII. To The Same.

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One of the chief causes of this unfortunate situation is, that we have now in truth no minister; but the administration is a mere republic, and carried on by the cabinet council, the individuals of which think only how to get the better of each other. Let us then turn our eyes, as much as we can, from this melancholy prospect, which neither of us can mend, and think of something else. * * * * *

I am told that you have an infinite number of English gentlemen now at Bruffels, but I hope you do not put yourself upon the foot of stuffing them with salt beef, and drenching them with claret; for I am sure your appointments will not afford that expence, and by the way, I believe, that in their hearts, they would much rather you would let them alone, to be jolly together at their inns, than go to your house.

Make my compliments to Mrs. Dayrolles, to my godson, to *tutti quanti*, in short, who can receive them, for *mademoiselle* cannot yet. Adieu, my dear and faithful friend. May you, and all who belong to you, be long happy, whatever becomes of

Yours,

C.

LETTER CVII.

TO THE SAME.

Blackheath, June 27, 1756.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

BY your last of the 18th, I believe it crossed my last of, I have forgot what date, upon the road, for I there gave you an account of my poor state of vegetation, after which you inquire. I still continue to crawl upon the face of the earth, but it is like those humble and short-lived vegetables, who, seemingly conscious of their condition, crawl very near that earth, to which they are so soon to return.

I entirely

I entirely agree with you in your resolution of breeding up all your sons to some profession or other, but, at the same time, your usual vivacity carries you much too prematurely, to fix their several destinations. You must not so much consider what you would chuse for them, as what they are likely to succeed best in; and that cannot be discovered these seven or eight years. It is certain that, whether from nature, or from early accidental impressions in their youth, I will not say, it being very hard to distinguish children, after eight or ten years of age, often shew a determined preference for some particular profession, which it would be imprudent for their parents to oppose, because, in that case, they would surely not succeed so well, or perhaps at all, in any other. In the mean time, give them all eventually a good education, so as to qualify them, to a certain degree, for whatever profession you and they may hereafter agree upon; for I repeat it again, their approbation is full as necessary as yours. These, however, are the general rules, by which I would point out to them the professions, which I should severally wish them to apply to. I would recommend the army, or the navy, to a boy of a warm constitution, strong animal spirits, and a cold genius; to one of quick, lively, and distinguishing parts, the law; to a good, dull, and decent boy, the church; and trade to an acute, thinking, and laborious one. I wish that my godson, for whom you must allow me some degree of predilection, may take a liking to the law, for that is the truly independent profession. People will only trust their property to the care of the ablest lawyer, be he whig or tory, well or ill at court.

Our public affairs are, in my opinion, as bad as possible, and I turn my thoughts from them as much as ever I can. The queen of Hungary will repent, at leisure, of the treaty, which she has concluded in such haste with France. Those two powers never can agree long, and when they come to quarrel, it is easy to foresee which will have the better of it. She will then call in vain upon her old allies, who will probably not be able, and perhaps not willing, to assist her. *Adieu mon ami.*

I believe my brother is with you now; if so, pray tell him that I writ to him, by the last post.

L E T T E R