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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 CXI. To The Same.

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ing). Deaf and infirm as I am, I can with truth say the same thing at sixty-three. In my mind, it is only the strength of our passions, and the weakness of our reason, that make us so fond of life; but, when the former subside and give way to the latter, we grow weary of being, and willing to withdraw. I do not recommend this train of serious reflections to you, nor ought you to adopt them. Our ages, our situations are widely different. You have children to educate and provide for, you have all your senses, and can enjoy all the comforts both of domestic and social life. I am in every sense *isolé*, and have wound up all my bottoms. I may now walk off quietly, neither missing nor missed. Till when,

Yours most sincerely,

CHESTERFIELD.

LETTER CXI.

TO THE SAME.

London, April 16, 1757.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

THE books, which my *confrère* l'abbé Guaasco has sent from Paris to comte Cobenzel, and he to you, are the last volumes of the *Mémoires* of l'académie des belles lettres, of which, as you know, I have the honor to be an unworthy member. Those memoirs are our annual perquisites, and they are really not only very entertaining, but very instructive books. However, I am in no manner of haste; so pray keep them for me, till, with-

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“ however, much slower than he expected, which made him say three days
 “ before his last: *I did not think I should have made so much ado about*
 “ *dying*. He continued a philosopher to the last, and preserved the
 “ full enjoyment of all his faculties. He reflected upon his own situa-
 “ tion, just as he would have done upon that of another man, and
 “ seemed to be observing a phenomenon. Drawing near his end, he
 “ said, *This is the first death I have ever seen*; and his physician having
 “ asked him, whether he was in pain, or what he felt, his answer was,
 “ *I feel nothing but a difficulty of existing*. (Je ne sens autre chose
 “ qu'une difficulté d'être.)

out trouble to yourself, or any body else, you find a convenient opportunity of sending them to me. Pray make my compliments and excuse to comte Cobenzel, for the trouble he has had about them.

I returned the last week from the Bath, where I had run for a fortnight only, more for the sake of journeying, which always does me good, than drinking the waters, though they always do me some; and both together have now made me as well as I ever expect to be, and better than probably I commonly shall be. But this my present state is at best an intermediate state between health and illness, with which my philosophy makes me content.

Our public situation of affairs is now perhaps more ridiculous and unaccountable than ever; for those who would form themselves into an administration, cannot. Two posts, which were once thought considerable ones, which used to be solicited by many, and wished for by more, I mean those of secretary of state, and chancellor of the exchequer, have been proffered about to a degree of prostitution, and yet refused. The late possessors of them were most imprudently turned out, before the end of the session, and thereby become not only the most, but perhaps the only two, popular men now in this kingdom. * * * * *

Where all this confusion will end God only knows: but, for a while at least, I believe, it will center in Fox, who, at the end of the session, will, I presume, be the first commissioner of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer. In that case, the duke of Newcastle and his friends will probably join with Mr. Pitt and his, who united will make a strength, that the new ministry will not be able to withstand. *Ainsi va le monde.* (This is the way of the world.)

This would be the right season for you to carry your children to the Hague, to be inoculated; and a very proper one also, I should think, for you to ask leave to go there, as you cannot have any business now at Brussels. I look upon inoculation to be so useful and necessary a preventive, that I would not delay it one hour. I do not, at the same time, recommend to you to be inoculated yourself, though you have never had the small-pox, because at your time of life, perhaps, it may not be quite so safe. My compliments to Mrs. Dayrolles and Co. and so we heartily bid you good night.

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