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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 CXXIII. To The Same.

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which is the most likely. In the latter he would turn man, which I do not take to be easy for him. In either case, the priesthood or the parliament must be desperate. And with all my heart.

I am impatient to read some of the 209 letters addressed to your humble servant, under the name of Fitz Adam; for God forbid that I should read them all.

Though Archibald Bower, esq; has used a great deal of paper, he has not, in my opinion, wiped himself clean; a noble friend of ours loves sudden and extraordinary conversions; but, for my part, I am very apt to suspect them.

I shall so soon have the pleasure of seeing you in person, that I will spare you upon paper, and only assure you, *en attendant mieux*, that I am most faithfully

Yours,

C.

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L E T T E R CXXIII.

TO THE SAME.

Bath, Nov. 30, 1767.

SIR,

I CANNOT conceive why you will not allow your letter to have been a news letter; I am sure I received it as such, and a very welcome one too. However, I am glad you do not reckon it one, for that makes me expect another very soon, according to a good custom, which I hope you will not break through now.

I ask no politics, they are both above and below me. I have quite lost the clue to them, and should only bewilder myself, if I were to put my head into that labyrinth. The three great strokes of lord ——— I approve of. The inclosure of the king's

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forests,

forests, now an expence to the crown, and a great grievance to the country, will be an advantage to both, and I am astonished it has not been done long ago; but for a general excise, it must change its name by act of parliament before it will go down with the people, who know names better than things. For aught I know, if an act for a general excise were to be entitled an act for the better securing the liberty and property of his majesty's subjects, by repealing some of the most burthensome custom-house laws, it might be gladly received.

The two great weddings you mention have supplied the town with that sort of conversation which is the fittest for them. Custom, which governs much more than reason, has laid the tax of foolish expence upon young and rich couples, which is collected by folly. I do not entirely disapprove of that ingenious gentleman, who has married——; he has rushed into the danger to avoid the apprehension, reflecting, no doubt, that had he married any other woman of equal beauty, he must, at all events, have worn the fashionable badge of distinction that he now does.

I flatter myself that I am well with your brother, the primate of Ireland, who is here at present in perfect health, and by much the fattest of the family. My brother's fit I take to have been only such a vertigo as I had a thousand times formerly, when, if I had not been supported by two people, I should have fallen down. I have sent him my prescription, which, I am sure, will relieve, if not cure him, if he will but follow it.

Yours faithfully,

LET-