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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 VIII. To The Same.

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L E T T E R VII.

TO THE SAME.

MY GOOD LORD, Hague, May 12, N. S. 1745.

NO W you are what I had positively declared you should be, a bishop; but it is bishop of Killaloe, not Clonfert, the latter refusing the translation. Killaloe, I am assured, is better. I heartily wish you joy, and could not refuse myself that pleasure, though I am in the greatest hurry imaginable, being upon my journey to Helvoet-Sluis for England. Adieu.

Yours,

C.

L E T T E R VIII.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR LORD, London, June 18, 1747.

I THANK you for your letter and your kind hint, and am heartily glad to hear that you have made up your affair with your predecessor's widow.

What becomes of your intended establishment at Waterford for the reception of foreigners*? Does it go on? It would be of great advantage to the town, and a good example to others. How does Mr. Smith's linen manufacture flourish with you? If it prospers, I should think it would both invite and employ foreigners. I wish my country people, (for I look upon myself as an Irishman still) would but attend half as much to those useful objects, as they do to the glory of the militia and the purity of their claret. Drinking is a most beastly vice in every country,

* That scheme, intended for the encouragement of French protestants, did not answer the expectation of those who had formed it.

but

but it is really a ruinous one to Ireland : nine gentlemen in ten in Ireland are impoverished by the great quantity of claret, which, from mistaken notions of hospitality and dignity, they think it necessary should be drank in their houses ; this expence leaves them no room to improve their estates, by proper indulgence upon proper conditions to their tenants, who must pay them to the full, and upon the very day, that they may pay their wine merchants.

There was a law, in one of the antient governments, I have forgot which *, that empowered a man to kill his wife, if she smelt of wine. I most sincerely wish that there were a law in Ireland, and better executed than most laws are, to empower the wives to kill their husbands in the like case ; it would promote sobriety extremely, if the effects of conjugal affection were fully considered.

Do you grow fat ? Are Mrs. Chenevix and your children all well ? Are you as chearful and as happy as your good conscience ought to make you ? I hope them all, for, upon my word, nobody loves and values you more than

Your faithful friend and servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

LETTER IX.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR LORD,

1747 †.

I AM very glad to hear of your safe arrival upon Irish ground, after your distresses upon the Irish seas : escapes always make people either much bolder or much more timid than they were

* It was that of the antient Romans : that law, indeed, did not subsist long in all its severity ; but even when the ladies had obtained the permission of drinking wine, they were punished for abusing of that indulgence ; and the wife of a senator, having been convicted of drunkenness, was deprived of her marriage portion.

† This date is not in the hand of lord Chesterfield ; and I suspect it to be faulty.

before ;