



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

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 IX. To The Same.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52077](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-52077)

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 ;

before ; yours, I hope, will have the former of these effects, and encourage you rather to visit your friends in England.

I have been a country gentleman a great while, for me, that is, I have now been a fortnight together at Blackheath, and stay three or four days longer. The *furor hortensis* (garden-madness) has seized me, and my acre of ground here affords me more pleasure than kingdoms do to kings ; for my object is not to extend, but to enrich it. My gardener calls me, and I must obey. Be as well and as chearful as you can, and believe me most faithfully and truly

Yours,

CHESTERFIELD.

LETTER X.

TO THE SAME.

Bath, March 1, 1748.

MY DEAR LORD,

I THANK you for your kind letter, by which I am glad to find that you approve of my resignation, and of my resolution to enjoy the comforts of a private life : indeed I had enough both of the pageantry and hurry of public life, to see their futility, and I withdraw from them, *uti conviva satur* (as a satisfied guest.) This conviction from experience secured me from regret : those who have only seen the gaudy outside of great stations, languish for their hidden charms, which in my mind soon satiate after possession*.

I am very glad to hear that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you and your family here this summer ; I know that I cannot see a truer nor a warmer friend, which, I assure you, you may say too when you see me. I suppose that

* When I had the honor to see lord Chesterfield, some time after his resignation, one reason he told me why he was glad he had resigned, was because it was very difficult, in the public station he was in, to be intirely free from doing things that were not quite right.

Bishop of Waterford.