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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 XXVI. To The Same.

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## L E T T E R XXVI.

TO THE SAME.

London, Dec. 15, 1755.

MY DEAR LORD,

I Brought with me from Bath rather a little more health than I carried with me there, but full as much deafness; and this is all the answer I can make to your last kind inquiries. This, you see, is a state rather of suffering, than enjoying life, and indeed I am very weary of it, but, thank God, *ennui* is not, as it commonly is, attended with melancholy; and during the rest of my journey, I shall rather sleep in the *voiture* (carriage) than be restless and uneasy, as most travellers are.

I cannot find here the only copy which I had kept of my letter to *l'academie des belles lettres*; but Mr. Bristow took one over with him to Ireland, which I dare say he will readily shew you, and you may signify my consent to it, by shewing him this part of my letter. When you do see it, you will find that its only merit is its being pretty correct French, and that it has no intrinsic right to be reckoned among *les belles lettres*.

*Que le chien mange le loup, ou que le loup mange le chien*, (let the dog devour, or be devoured by, the wolf) either in Ireland or here, is to me matter of great indifference, provided that those who govern either kingdom would but at their leisure moments, and when they have nothing better to do, a little consider the public good; for after all, there is such a thing as public good, though in general people seem not to think so. I am not Utopian enough to propose, that it should interfere with private interest; but perhaps if duly considered, it might appear in some few cases to coincide with, and promote it.

Sheridan has lately published here an excellent book entitled *British education*. Warm'd with his subject he pushes it rather too far, as all authors do the particular object that  
has

has struck their imagination, and he is too diffuse; but upon the whole, it is both a very useful and entertaining book. When you see it, you will perhaps think that I am bribed by the dedication to say what I now say of it, for he lays me on thick; but that, upon my word, is not the case. The truth is, that the several situations, which I have been in, having made me long the *plastron* of dedications, I am become as callous to flattery, as some people are to abuse.

I think your brother would be much in the wrong to quit his present commission of lieutenant-colonel to an old regiment of horse, for a new-raised regiment of foot, which with twenty others, would, I hope, be very soon broke. The extravagant and groundless, though general fears of an invasion from France, justify, to the timid public, the present military phrenzy; but, as I am convinced that the former will soon vanish, it is to be hoped the latter will soon after subside. This, at least, I am very sure of, that we shall not be able to pay three years longer the number of troops which we now have in our pay. Make my compliments to your young family; and be assured that I am, most faithfully and sincerely, your's,

CHESTERFIELD.

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LETTER XXVII.

TO THE SAME.

Blackheath, July 15, 1756.

MY DEAR LORD,

**I**T is not without doing some violence to my weak hand, and weaker head, that I attempt to satisfy your friendly anxiety about my health. I still crawl upon the face of the earth, neither worse nor better than I was some months ago, weary of, but not murmuring at, my disagreeable situation. Speaking tires and exhausts me; and as for hearing I have none left; so that I am *isolé* in the midst of my friends and acquaintance: