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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 XXXIV. To The Same.

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Your political world in Ireland is now quieted for the time being. May that quiet last; but I do not think it will. You are come to that state in Ireland, which Dr. Brown too truly represents to be the state of England, in his Estimate of the Manners and Principles of the times, of which he has just published a second volume. If you have not already got them, I advise you to apply to my philosophical friend George Faulkner for them. They are writ with spirit and elegance, and are, I fear, too just.

I am, my dear lord,

Your most faithful friend and servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

L E T T E R X X X I V .

T O T H E S A M E

Blackheath, May 23, 1758.

M Y D E A R L O R D ,

I Have received your letter of the 4th instant. The day afterwards I received the book which you was so kind as to send me by major Maccullogh, and the day after that, by Mr. Ruffel, your bill for expences incurred and not provided for, which I have paid.

Now, first to the first. You solicit a very poor employment so modestly, and offer your daughters as security for your good behaviour, that I cannot refuse it you, and do hereby appoint you my sole commissioner for the kingdom of Ireland. To the second. This ninth volume of Swift will not do him so much honour, as I hope it will bring profit to my friend George Faulkner. The historical part * is a party pamphlet, founded on the lie of the day, which, as lord Bolingbroke who had read it often assured me, was coined and delivered out to him, to write Examiners, and other political papers upon.

* The history of the four last years of the queen.

That

That spirit remarkably runs through it. Macartenev, for instance, murdered duke Hamilton; nothing is falser, for though Macartenev was very capable of the vilest actions, he was guiltless of that, as I myself can testify, who was at his trial in the king's bench, when he came over voluntarily to take it, in the late king's time. There did not appear even the least ground for a suspicion of it, nor did Hamilton, who appeared in court, pretend to tax him with it, which would have been in truth accusing himself of the utmost baseness, in letting the murderer of his friend go off from the field of battle, without either resentment, pursuit, or even accusation, till three days afterwards. This *lie* was invented to inflame the Scotch nation against the whigs; as the other, that prince Eugene intended to murder lord Oxford, by employing a set of people called Mohocks, which society, by the way, never existed, was calculated to inflame the mob of London. Swift took those hints *de la meilleure foi du monde*, and thought them materials for history. So far he is blameless.

Thirdly and lastly, I have paid Mr. Ruffel the twenty-seven pounds five shillings, for which you drew your bill. I hope you are sensible that I need not have paid it till I had received the goods, or at least till I had proofs of your having sent them, but where I have in general a good opinion of the person, I always proceed frankly, and do not stand upon forms, and I have without flattery so good an opinion of you, that I would trust you not only with twenty-seven pounds, but even as far as thirty-seven.

Your friend's letter to you, inclosed in the book, is an honest and melancholic one: but what can I do in it? He seems not to know the nature of factions in Ireland, the prevailing for the time being is absolute, and whoso transgresseth the least of their commandments is guilty of the whole. A lord lieutenant may if he pleases govern alone, but then he must, as I know by experience, take a great deal more trouble upon himself than most lord lieutenants care to do, and he must not be afraid: but as they commonly prefer *otium cum dignitate*, their guards, their battle-axes, and their trumpets, not to mention perhaps, the profits of their post, to a laborious execution of it, they must necessarily rule by a faction, of which faction

for the time being, they are only the first slaves: the condition of the obligation is this, your excellency or your grace wants to carry on his majesty's business smoothly, and to have it to say when you go back, that you met with no difficulties, this we have sufficient strength in parliament to engage for, provided we appear to have the favour and countenance of the government, the money, be it what it will, shall be cheerfully voted; as for the public you shall do what you will, or nothing at all, for we care for that no more than we suppose your grace or excellency does, but we repeat it again, our recommendations to places, pensions, &c. must prevail, or we shall not be able to keep our people in order. These are always the expressed, or at least the implied, conditions of these treaties, which either the indolence or the insufficiency of the governors ratify: from that moment these undertakers bury the governor alive, but indeed pompously: different from the worshipful company of undertakers here, who seldom bury any body alive, or at least never without the consent and privity of the next heirs.

I am now settled here for the summer, perhaps for ever, in great tranquillity of mind, not equally of body; I make the most of it, I vegetate with the vegetables, and I crawl with the insects in my garden, and I am, such as I am, most faithfully and sincerely

Yours,

CHESTERFIELD.

L E T T E R XXXV.

T O T H E S A M E.

Blackheath, June 2, 1758.

M Y D E A R L O R D,

I AM now in possession of the goods you procured me, and they are both excellent in their kind; but how difficult, not to say impossible, it is to find an honest factor! You have not cheated me it is true, but you have most grossly