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 LXXI(a). To The Same.

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TO THE SAME.

London, Aug. 12, 1771.

MY DEAR LORD,

I Received your kind letter three days ago, and make haste to acknowledge it, never knowing nor gueffing what may happen to me from one day to another. I am moft prodigioufly old, and every month of the kalendar adds at leaft a year to my age. My hand trembles to that degree that I can hardly hold my pen, my under-ftanding ftutters, and my memory fumbles. I have ex-haufted all the phyfical ills of Pandora's box, without finding hope at the bottom of it ; but who can hope at feventy-feven ? One muft only feek for little comforts at that age. One of mine is, that all my complaints are rather teazing than torturing ; and my lot, compared with that of many other people's, who deferve a better, feems rather favourable. Philofophy, and confidence in the mercy of my Creator, mutually affift me in bearing my fhare of phyfical ills, without murmuring.

I fend you here inclofed two little papers of melon-feed of the beft kind I ever tafted ; and I fhall from time to time fend you more, as you cannot fow any till February.

I had the pleafure of your fon's company at dinner fix weeks ago, where he met lord Briftol, who obferved ex-actly his diet, in eating no animal food, and drinking no wine, and is in better health and fpirits than I ever knew him. I am glad that he goes to Nice, which I have known do a great deal of good to many people in his cafe. May you and he have all you wifh for !

Adieu, my dear lord ; I am, to you and yours,

A moft faithful and affectionate fervant,

CHESTERFIELD.

(a) The original of this is written in a very trembling hand.