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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 LXXII(a). To The Same.

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L E T T E R LXXII (a).

T O T H E S A M E .

London, Dec. 19, 1771.

M Y D E A R L O R D ,

I AM sure you will believe me when I tell you that I am sincerely sorry for your loss, which I received the account of yesterday, and upon which I shall make you none of the trite compliments of condolence. Your grief is just; but your religion, of which I am sure you have enough, (with the addition of some philosophy) will make you keep it within due bounds, and leave the rest to time and avocations. When your son was with me here, just before he embarked for France, I plainly saw that his consumption was too far gone to leave the least hopes of a cure, and, if he had dragged on this wretched life some few years longer, that life could have been but trouble and sorrow to you both. This consideration alone should mitigate your grief, and the care of your grandson will be a proper avocation from it. Adieu, my dear lord: may this stroke of adversity be the last you may ever experience from the hand of Providence!

Yours, most affectionately and sincerely,

C H E S T E R F I E L D .

(a) This whole letter is in the hand of lord Chesterfield, but so altered, that, except the first line, the strokes have been covered by another hand. It preceded his death but a few months, and is probably the last he ever wrote to his dear bishop; with whom his correspondence thus closes with an office of tenderness and affection, that of comforting an afflicted parent.

L E T -