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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 LXXIII. To Thomas Prior, Esg. (a).

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

L E T T E R LXXIII.

To THOMAS PRIOR, Esq. (a).

London, June 14, 1746.

S I R,

I THANK you for the favor of your letter, with the inclosed scheme for carrying on the war, which, if others approved of as much as I do, and the present situation of the war permitted, would be soon put in execution.

As you are one of the few in Ireland, who always think of the public, without any mixture of private, interest, I do not doubt but that you have already thought of some useful methods of employing the king's bounty to the Dublin society. The late additional tax upon glafs here, as it must considerably raise the price of glafs bottles imported into Ireland, seems to point out the manufacturing them there; which consideration, with a small premium added to it, would, in my mind, set up such a manufacture. Fine writing and printing paper, we have often talked of together; and the specimen you gave me before I left Dublin proves that nothing but care and industry is wanting to bring that manufacture to such a perfection as to prevent the importation of it from Holland, and through Holland from France; nay I am convinced that you might supply England with a great deal if you pleased, that is, if you would make it, as you could do, both good and cheap. Here is a man who has found out a method of making starch of potatoes, and, by the help of an engine of his own invention, to make a prodigious quantity of it in a day. But here is an act of parliament which strictly prohibits the making starch of any thing but flour. Have you such an act of parliament in Ireland? If you have not, and that you import your starch

(a) This gentleman, who had a good estate in Ireland, seems to have been particularly distinguished by lord Chesterfield, on account of his amiable qualities as a man, and his eminent ones as a good citizen and a true patriot. See what has been said of that gentleman in the memoirs, Sect. V.

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from England, as I take it for granted that you do, for you import every thing that you can, it would be well worth this man's while to go to Ireland, and advantageous for you that he should; his starch being to my knowledge and experience full as good, and abundantly cheaper than any other.

These are the sorts of jobs that I wish people in Ireland would attend to with as much industry and care, as they do to jobs of a very different nature. These honest arts would solidly increase their fortunes, and improve their estates, upon the only true and permanent foundation, the public good. Leave us and your regular forces in Ireland to fight for you: think of your manufactures at least as much as of your militia, and be as much upon your guard against poverty as against popery; take my word for it, you are in more danger of the former than of the latter.

I hope my friend, the bishop of Meath, goes on prosperously with his charter schools. I call them his, for I really think that without his care and perseverance they would hardly have existed now. Though their operation is sure, yet, being slow, it is not suited to the Irish taste of *the time present only*; and I cannot help saying, that, except in your claret, which you are very solicitous should be two or three years old, you think less of two or three years hence than any people under the sun. If they would but wish themselves as well as I wish them, and take as much pains to promote their own true interest, as I should be glad to do to contribute to it, they would in a few years be in a very different situation from that which they are in at present. Go on, however, you and our other friends; be not weary of well-doing, and though you cannot do all the good you would, do all the good you can.

When you write to the most worthy bishop of Cloyne (*a*), pray assure him of my truest regard and esteem, and remember me to my honest and indefatigable friend in good works doctor Madden; and be persuaded yourself, that I am, with sincere friendship and regard,

Your most faithful humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

(*a*) Dr. Berkeley.

LET.