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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 LXXVI. To The Same.

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L E T T E R LXXV.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, July 26, 1746.

S I R,

I Received by the last post the favour of your letter of the 17th, with the inclosed account of the premiums offered for 1746. I think them all perfectly right, and, as I told you in my last, I think you will do well to pursue the manufacture of glass bottles, with as little noise as possible. I heartily wish you success, and am, very truly,

Your faithful humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

L E T T E R LXXVI.

T O T H E S A M E.

London, Sept. 23, 1746.

S I R,

A Long and dangerous illness has hindered me from acknowledging till now, your two last letters; and though I am a great deal better, I still feel, by extreme weakness, the shock which that illness has given to a constitution too much shattered before.

Pray be under no kind of uneasiness as to the accident that happened to my letter, for I assure you I am under none myself. I confess, the printing of a letter carelessly and inaccurately written, in the freedom and confidence of a friendly correspondence, is not very agreeable, especially to me, who am so idle and negligent in my familiar letters, that I never wrote one over twice in my life, and

am

am consequently often guilty both of false spelling and false English; but as to my sentiments with regard to Ireland, I am not only willing, but desirous, that all Ireland should know them. I very well recollect the two paragraphs in my letter, which might be objected to by many people; but I recollect them without retracting them. I repeat it again that there are not many people there, who, like you, employ their thoughts, their time, and their labour, merely for the public good, without any private view. The condition of Ireland sufficiently proves that truth. How different would the state of your lands, your trade, your manufactures, your arts and sciences, have been now from what it is, had they been the objects of general, as they have been of your particular, attention! I still less recant what I said about claret, which is a known and melancholy truth; and I could add a great deal more upon that subject. Five thousand tuns of wine imported *communibus annis* into Ireland, is a sure, but indecent, proof of the excessive drinking of the gentry there, for the inferior sort of people cannot afford to drink wine there, as many of them can here; so that these five thousand tuns of wine are chiefly employed in destroying the constitutions, the faculties, and too often the fortunes, of those of superior rank, who ought to take care of all the others. Were there to be a contest between public cellars and public granaries, which do you think would carry it? I believe you will allow that a claret board, if there were one, would be much better attended than the linen board, *unless when flax-seed were to be distributed*. I am sensible that I shall be reckoned a very shallow politician, for my attention to such trifling objects, as the improvement of your lands, the extension of your manufactures, and the increase of your trade, which only tend to the advantage of the public; whereas an able lord lieutenant ought to employ his thoughts in greater matters. He should think of jobs for favourites, sops for enemies, managing parties, and engaging parliaments to vote away their own and their fellow subjects liberties and properties. But these great arts of government, I confess, are above me, and people should not go out of their depth. I will modestly be content with wishing Ireland all the good that is possible, and with doing it all the good I can; and so weak am I, that I would much rather be distinguished and remembered
by

TO HIS FRIENDS. BOOK III. LET. LXXVI. LXXVII. 401
by the name of the *Irish lord lieutenant*, than by that of the
lord lieutenant of Ireland.

My paper puts me in mind that I have already troubled
you too long, so I conclude abruptly, with assuring you
that I am, with the truest esteem,

Your faithful humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

L E T T E R LXXVII.

T O T H E S A M E .

London, Jan. 10, 1747.

S I R ,

THE person who will deliver you this letter, is a most
skilful mechanic, and has made many useful disco-
veries. He is going to try his fortune in Ireland, and desi-
red me to recommend him to somebody there. I could
not refuse him, knowing his Ingenuity; and then, who
could I recommend him to so well, as to my good friend
Mr. Prior, the disinterested and zealous patron of all good
and useful things? I really think he may be of use to the
Dublin society, who I know are of very great use to the
public. If he should prove so, well and good; so far only
I recommend him to you eventually. This obligation how-
ever I have to him, that he has given me an opportunity
of assuring you of the continuance of that esteem and re-
gard with which I am,

Your most faithful humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.