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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 LXXVIII. To The Same.

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LETTER LXXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

London, May, 6, 1747.

MY GOOD FRIEND,

I Have been long in your debt, and am ashamed of it; but I am sure you do me too much justice to suspect me of either fraud or negligence. The truth is, that I have as little command of time, as many people have of money; and, though my intentions are honest, I am often forced by necessity to be a very bad pay-master.

I desire that the Dublin society will dispose of that trifle that I gave them, in the manner they shall think proper. They are the best judges, and have shewn themselves so by all their past conduct. They have done more good to Ireland, with regard to arts and industry, than all the laws that could have been formed; for, unfortunately, there is a perverseness in our natures, which prompts us to resist authority, though otherwise inclined to do the thing, if left to our choice. Invitation, example, and fashion, with some premiums attending them, are, I am convinced, the only methods of bringing people in Ireland to do what they ought to do; and this is the plan of your society.

I am glad to find that your paper manufacture goes on so well. If it does but once take root with you, I am sure it will flourish; for it is the beginning only of things that is difficult with you. You want stock to set out with, and patience for the returns; but when once the profit begins to be felt, you will go on as well as any people in the world.

I am surprized that the high duty upon glafs here, and the suspension of the manufacture of it in some degree, has not encouraged you to apply yourselves to that part of trade, in which I am sure the profits would be very considerable, and your making your own bottles might be some little degree of equivalent for what emptying of bottles costs you. I wish every man in Ireland were obliged
to

to make as many bottles as he empties, and your manufacture would be a flourishing one indeed.

I am very glad to hear that your linen board is to give no more flax-feed, but only premiums for the raising of it; for that same flax-feed was the seed of corruption, which throve wonderfully in the soil of particular people, and produced jobs one hundred fold.

The snuff you sent me was extremely good, and I am much obliged to you for the trouble you took about it, though I know you think it no trouble to serve your friends, and hope that you reckon me in that number. I assure you I am, and I should not be the friend that I really am to Ireland, if I were not so to you, who deserve so well of your country. I know few people who, like you, employ both their time and their fortunes in doing public good, without the thoughts or expectations of private advantage: when I say advantage, I mean it in the common acceptation of the word, which, thanks to the virtue of the times, implies only money; for otherwise your advantage is very considerable, from the consciousness of the good you do; the greatest advantage which an honest mind is capable of enjoying. May you long enjoy it, with health, the next happiness to it!

I am, with the truest esteem,

Your most faithful humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD:

P. S. Pray make my compliments to the good bishop of Cloyne, when you write to him.