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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 LXXIX. To Dr. Madden (a).

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LETTER LXXIX.

To Dr. MADDEN (a).

London, Dec. 12, 1746.

CAN you forgive me, my dear Dr. M——, what I can scarcely forgive myself; I mean, having so long delayed my acknowledgments for your first very friendly letter? but, though I am blameable, I am not quite so much so as by the length of time it would seem, when you consider my long and dangerous illness, and since my recovery, the multiplicity of business which the late change of my situation (b) has brought upon me.

I can with the strictest truth assure you, that my sentiments of esteem and friendship for you are in no degree lessened, and I am sure never will be, since they are founded upon your love and zeal for mankind in general, your country and friends in particular, which I am sure will never end but with your life. I have read your work with great satisfaction (c); it is full * * * * *

A concurrence of circumstances has obliged me to change an easy for a laborious employment, in which too, I fear it will be much less in my power to do good, than it was in my former. It may seem vain to say so, but I will own that I thought I could, and began to hope that I should, do some good in Ireland. I flattered myself that I had put jobs a little out of fashion, and your own manufactures a little in fashion, and that I had in some degree discouraged the pernicious and beastly practice of drinking, with many other pleasing visions of public good. At least I am sure I was earnest in my wishes, and would have been assiduous in my endeavours for it. Fortune, chance, or providence, call it which you will, has removed me from you, and has assigned me another destination, but has not, I am sure, changed my inclinations, wishes, or my efforts, upon occasion,

(a) The Rev. Dr. Samuel Madden first institutor of the Dublin society. A more particular account of that extraordinary man may be seen in the memoirs, Sect. V. The copy of this letter is endorsed "22 Dec. 1746, Copy; Chesterfield's letter to Dr. Madden."

(b) His acceptance of the seals as secretary of state.

(c) Probably a tragedy in manuscript inscribed to lord Chesterfield. It is now in the possession of Mr. Sheridan, to whom it was bequeathed as a legacy by the author.

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for the interest and prosperity of Ireland; and I shall always retain the truest affection for, and remembrance of, that country; I wish I could say of that rich, flourishing, and industrious nation. I hope it will in time be so, and I even think it makes some progress that way, though not so quick as I could wish; but however, there are righteous enough to save the city, and the examples of you, and many of your friends, will, I hope, prove happily and beneficially contagious. I did flatter myself, a little before my removal, that I should * * *

Continue me, dear sir, your friendship and remembrance, which I will say that in some degree I deserve, by the sincere regard and esteem with which I am,

Your most faithful friend and servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

P. S. Pray make my compliments to the worthy bishop of Meath, to whom I will write soon, and likewise to my friend Mr. Prior.

LETTER LXXX (a).

To Dr. WHITCOMBE, then Bishop of Clonfert, and afterwards Archbishop of Cashel.

1753, or 1754.

MY GOOD LORD,

I find that you are still what I always knew you, active to promote the improvement and advantage of Ireland, and that you do me the justice to believe that I sincerely wish them.

The two schemes which your lordship communicated to me, in the favour of your letter of the 8th, will, in my opinion, greatly tend to those good purposes. That for the improvement of useful literature in the university of Dublin is, I think, an extreme good one, and I wish

(a) The original of this letter was not sent.

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