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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 LXXX(a). To Dr. Whitcombe, then Bishop of Clonfert, and afterwards
Archbishop of Canshel.

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

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.

it

it may be steadily pursued, though I cannot, with the same degree of faith, say that I expect it will; however I think it should be tried, and carried as far as it will go: whether the professorships should be continued, and appropriated to fellows of the college singly, is what I can possibly form no opinion upon, not being well acquainted enough with the present situation of the college, and the abilities of the fellows, but I should rather think that they ought to be given to those, whether fellows or not, who, from their eminence in those several branches of learning, deserve them best: but this rule too of *detur digniori*, your lordship must not expect will be scrupulously observed. That part of the plan, which relates to writing and speaking the English language with purity and elegance hath, in my opinion, long been one of the *desiderata* both in Ireland and England, where pedantry and an affectation of learning have, in pursuit of two dead languages, which can never be known correctly, let our own be neglected to such a degree, that though we have ten thousand Greek and Latin grammars and dictionaries, we have not yet a single one on English (*b*).

The other scheme, for encouraging foreign Protestants to settle in Ireland, is a most excellent one. I have long wished, and the nation long wanted it. The first foundation of it, consisting only of some voluntary subscriptions, can be but narrow, and, what is worse, precarious; consequently will persuade very few foreigners to expatriate themselves, in the uncertainty of finding a permanent establishment elsewhere. However, it will be very right to give a beginning and a form to that scheme as soon as possible; and then I should hope, that your next session of parliament, finding a foundation laid, for that is the difficulty, would contribute largely and solidly to extend that foundation, and to raise a superstructure upon it which would be of such real advantage to their country. They are very well able to do it; the public revenues being considerably increased, not to mention that an additional number of inhabitants would increase them still more. Money disbursed upon such a charitable, as well as poli-

(*b*) The case is now much altered; the number of English grammars being actually very considerable. Indeed lord Chesterfield seems to have overlooked Dr. Wallis's grammar, the best, perhaps, that was composed for any language. Dr. Johnson's grammar and dictionary were not yet published.

TO HIS FRIENDS. BOOK III. LET. LXXX. LXXXI. 407
tical account, is money prudently placed at interest both
for this world and the next. Your lordship may depend
upon my exerting my utmost endeavours to promote and
recommend so useful a design, and the more so, because
that, from your lordship being at the head of it, I can
safely answer for its being faithfully and skilfully carried
on.

I am, with the greatest truth and esteem,

Your lordship's

most obedient humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

L E T T E R LXXXI (a).

To Captain IRWINE, at Paris.

London, April 4, O. S. 1749.

SIR,

I Send you the letter of recommendation to Mr. Villette
(*b*), which you desired, by yours to Mr. Grevenkop;
but I fear that he will be gone from Turin before
you arrive there. But in that case you will find a young
Academician and his governor there, who will be very
glad to do you any service, and to whom I have sent or-
ders upon that subject. They will take the carnival at
Venice, in their way, where you will likewise probably
meet them, for I take it for granted that you will con-
trive to see that uncommon ceremony. It is worth your
while. There will be a much greater ceremony next

(*a*) This, and the ten following letters, were most obligingly com-
municated to me by sir John Irwine, knight of the Bath, lieutenant-
general and commander in chief of his majesty's forces in Ireland. They
are printed from the originals.

(*b*) Arthur Villette, esq; his majesty's envoy at the court of Turin,
and afterwards employed under the same denomination at Bern. He is
now retired at Bath, where he enjoys the distinction due to great merit
and virtue. He was one of lord Chesterfield's friends.

Christmas