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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 LXXXIV. To The Same.

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the first week in November, for near a year more. I hardly flatter myself with the hopes of seeing you at Bath this season; nor indeed would I advise you to leave Ireland, till your affair is decided one way or other. The observation, *que les absens ont toujours tort*, (that the absent always come off worst) is in general true, and in your case, would be particularly true in regard to a certain general whom I know.

I am extremely obliged to you for your kindness to your lieutenant Heathcote, in which I think I have some share, though I hope and believe he deserves it personally.

I will end this abruptly, rather than employ the common words to assure you of the uncommon esteem and friendship with which I am

Your most faithful humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

P. S. Pray make my compliments to the primate, and to the house of Clements.

L E T T E R LXXXIV.

T O T H E S A M E .

London, April 25, 1752.

S I R,

I AM two letters in your debt, a debt which I am more inclined to acknowledge, than able to pay. Yours bring me informations, mine can only return you thanks. I make you therefore no excuse for the delay, possibly I deserve your thanks for it. I live too much out of the world to entertain you, and lately I have lived too much out of it to entertain myself; for I have been for these last two months extremely deaf, from what cause I know not any more than the doctors whom I have consulted; but the effects I still feel, though not in quite so great a degree. This makes me very disagreeable, both to myself, and to the few people with whom I desire to converse; and puts me in the situation of a man who understands at best but half the language of the country he lives

lives

lives in. If the weather, which is hitherto very bad, would but mend a little, and look something like summer, I would settle at Blackheath, where I can amuse myself by myself, better than in town.

As well as I can judge at this distance, from the various accounts I have had of your squabbles and quarrels in Ireland, *c'est tout comme chez nous*. The great point is who shall govern the government; and I presume that all heads have been too busy upon that point, to think one moment of the real interest of Ireland. What an effusion of claret must all this have occasioned! for it is a maxim, that business is best done over a bottle, and that people are never so fit for it, as when they are fit for nothing else. I make no doubt but that there has more claret been drank over the barracks this winter than will be drank in them these ten years. And I wonder the bridge was not agreed to, considering the national aversion to water. I not only hope, but am persuaded, that you do not give into this *cochonnerie*, which ungentlemen every body. A sprightly *débauche* now and then is very well; but the dull, sedate, and continued guzzling of claret is very unbecoming to a young fellow.

I find that Dublin has been this winter the seat of pleasure, as well as of war. We have heard of the magnificence of your balls and entertainments. They are liberal and proper diversions, and, with submission to the grave and the wise, that luxury and expence is beneficial to the public. It employs many hands, and circulates property, provided that luxury be confined to home produce.

We have married you here to the daughter of lady * * *, but that is no proof that you have married yourself to her in Ireland. If you have, I heartily wish you joy, for it is possible that there may be joy in marriage. In either case, I hope we shall see you this year in England. You have attended your post as a major long enough, I should think, to be allowed a furlow for next winter; and I take it for granted that your whole regiment is very perfect now, in the round-about way of doing every thing. I assure you that of all your friends here, none can with more satisfaction and sincerity tell you they are so, than

Your faithful humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.
L E T-