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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 XCIV. From Dean Swift to the of Chesterfield.

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L E T T E R XCIV.

From Dean SWIFT to the Earl of CHESTERFIELD.

January 5, 1730-1.

M Y L O R D,

I RETURN your lordship my most humble thanks for the honor and favour of your letter, and desire your justice to believe, that, in writing to you a second time, I have no design of giving you a second trouble. My only end at present is to beg your pardon for a fault of ignorance. I ought to have remembered, that the arts of courts are like those of play; where, if the most expert be absent for a few months, the whole system is so changed, that he hath no more skill than a new beginner. Yet I cannot but wish, that your lordship had pleased to forgive one, who has been an utter stranger to public life above sixteen years. Buffy Rabutin himself, the politest person of his age, when he was recalled to court after a long banishment, appeared ridiculous there: and what could I expect from my antiquated manner of addressing your lordship in the prime of your life, in the height of fortune, favour, and merit; so distinguished by your active spirit, and greatness of your genius? I do here repeat to your lordship, that I lay the fault of my misconduct entirely on a friend, whom I exceedingly love and esteem, whom I dare not name, and who is as bad a courtier by nature as I am grown by want of practice. God forbid that your lordship should continue in an employment, however great and honorable, where you only can be an ornament to the court so long, until you have an opportunity to provide offices for a dozen low people, like the poor man, whom I took the liberty to mention! And God forbid, that, in one particular branch of the king's family, there should ever be such a mortality, as to take away a dozen of meaner servants in less than a dozen years!

Give me leave, in further excuse of my weakness, to confess, that besides some hints from my friends, your
lordship

lordship is in great measure to blame, for your obliging manner of treating me in every place where I had the honor to see you; which I acknowledge to have been a distinction that I had not the least pretence to, and consequently as little to ground upon it the request of a favour.

As I am an utter stranger to the present forms of the world, I have imagined more than once, that your lordship's proceeding with me, may be a refinement introduced by yourself: and that as, in my time, the most solemn and frequent promises of great men usually failed, against all probable appearances, so that single slight one of your lordship may, by your generous nature, early succeed against all visible impossibilities (*a*).

I am, &c.

(*a*) And so it did; lord Chesterfield having soon found an opportunity of providing for the person recommended by Dean Swift.

I am happy in the opportunity of communicating to the public the three following letters, from lord Chesterfield to lord Stair, which were sent to me in the most obliging manner by a person of distinction in Scotland, whose name I am not at liberty to mention, but whom I desire to accept my public thanks for this favor. They are of such a nature as to make me, and I trust, every one of my readers, regret that there are so few of them.

LET-