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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 XCVI. To The Same.

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## L E T T E R XCVI.

TO THE SAME.

London, Dec. 3, 1739.

MY DEAR LORD,

SINCE I troubled you last, I have three letters from you to acknowledge. As to the two first, you will have heard from all your friends here, that the D. of A. is by no means as yet ripe to come into any of those propositions. I both think and hope he will by next year; but, in the mean time, he must be stroked and not spurred. The plan inclosed in your letter, which I received yesterday, is, in my opinion, a perfect right one, and is now followed by many corporations in England, in their instructions to their members; and ought to have been so by all the counties, if those, who at the end of last session of parliament undertook that province, had not either carelessly or wilfully neglected it till the assizes were over, which has now made it impossible for this year. The bill, to limit the number of placemen in parliament, is to be brought in after the holidays, and will, I suppose, be as soon rejected; after which, it will be necessary to print the names of those who voted for or against it; and then fresh instructions from every county or borough, both in England and Scotland, wherever they can be obtained, and, I believe, they may from almost every county, and a great majority of the boroughs will come with still greater weight next year. As for postponing the money bills till such a bill be agreed to, which is what you propose, and what is likewise mentioned in the instructions of the city of London, I find that will not do; because, to tell you the plain truth, many of the opposition do not in their hearts greatly relish the place bill itself, which they think might prove a clog upon their administration, and they will by no means hear of any thing like a tack, or a postponing of the money bills. If the whole opposition meant the same thing as you and I do, they would most certainly entertain this measure, which

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is the only one that can recover the constitution; all others are but temporary palliatives: for while the houses of lords and commons are absolutely in the power of the crown, as they visibly now are, we have no constitution, and the crown alone is, without a mystery, the three branches of the legislature. But unfortunately, I doubt, this is what many people desire as heartily as you and I wish the contrary. Sir Robert's health is thought to be very precarious, and there are many of us who already anticipate in their thoughts the joyful moment, which they think not remote, of coming into power; and consequently, far from desiring to make shackles for themselves, are rather willing to continue those upon the people which sir Robert has forged for them. This, I own, is a melancholy case; but I fear it is too much the case. The persons you allude to, that you think might be prevailed with to act against sir Robert, are not to be moved. They have been tried, and their own interest in so doing has been manifestly shewn them, but to no purpose. They consider money as their own interest, and would not venture the suspension of a quarter's salary to save the whole nation. This, my dear lord, is our wretched situation, from whence, I think, little good can arise. Union among ourselves cannot be expected, where our views are so widely different. This sir Robert knows, and triumphs in. I despair of either doing good or seeing any done; yet, while I live, I assure you, I will endeavour it. I wish my country well, and upon that principle alone must wish you so; but many other considerations concur to make me honor and esteem you as I do, and to form that attachment and friendship with which I shall ever be,

My dear lord,

Most faithfully yours,

CHESTERFIELD.

LET.