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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 XIV. To The Rev. Doctor Samuel Madden.

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## LETTER XIV.

TO THE REV. DOCTOR SAMUEL MADDEN.

London, September 15, 1748.

S I R,

**I** AM very sensibly affected with the late mark which you have given me of your remembrance and friendship. I assure you that I deserve them both, as far as the truest regard for your parts and merit can entitle me to them.

Your Poem, of which I have read the first Canto with equal pleasure and attention, has (without any compliment to you) a great deal of wit and invention in it: the characters are perfectly well preserved; and the moral, which it is easy to foresee from the first Canto, is excellent. You cannot doubt of my being proud to have such a performance addressed to me; and I should be prouder of it still, if the Author's name were to appear; but, as your friend, I must confess, that I think you in the right to conceal it: for, though the moral be good, yet, as the propriety of characters has obliged you to put some warm expressions in the mouths of Venus and Cupid, some silly, or malicious people might lay hold of them, and quote them to your disadvantage. As to the Dedication, I must tell you very sincerely, and without the least false modesty, that I heartily wish you would lower it: the honest warmth of your friendship makes you view me in a more partial light, than other people do, or, upon my word, than I do myself. The few light, trifling things that I have accidentally scribbled in my youth, in the cheerfulness of company, or sometimes (it may be) inspired by wine, do by no means entitle me to the compliments which you make me as an author; and my own vanity is so far from deceiving me upon that subject, that I repent of what I have shewn,



shewn, and only value myself upon what I have had the prudence to burn.

Though my cares for Ireland are ceased, you do me but justice in being convinced that my wishes for the prosperity of that country never will cease but with my life. The best wish that I could form for it would be, that half its inhabitants were like you: nay, I would compound for twenty who would, like you, devote their thoughts, their time, and a proportionable share of their fortunes to the public good. Your late considerable benefaction to Dublin College will be a perpetual monument of your public spirit, and your love of mankind. How greatly would arts and sciences flourish in Ireland, if those, who are much better able than you are, would contribute but half as much as you do to their improvement? You shine, indeed, the more for it; but I know you well enough to know, that you would rather *prodesse quam conspici*. The Irish might be a rich and happy people, *bona si sua norint*. Free from the heavy load of debts and taxes under which the English groan, as fit for arts, sciences, industry and labour, as any people in the world, they might, notwithstanding some hard restraints which England, by a mistaken policy, has laid them under, push several branches of trade to great perfection and profit; and, not only supply themselves with every thing they want, but other nations too with many things. But jobbs and claret engross and ruin the people of fashion, and, the ordinary people (as is usual in every country) imitate them in little momentary and mistaken views of present profit, and in whiskey. As to the incorporating by Charter the Dublin Society, I see many advantages that might arise from it; but, I must at the same time own, that I foresee some dangers too. Jobbs have hitherto always accompanied charters, however they may have been calculated to prevent them. The Dublin Society has hitherto gone on extremely well, and done infinite good: why? Because that not being a permanent incorporated society, and having no employments to dispose of, and depending only for their existence on their own good behaviour, it was not a theatre for jobbers



to shew their skill upon : but, when once established by Charter, the very advantages which are expected from, and which, I believe, will attend that Charter, I fear may prove fatal. It may then become an object of party, and Parliamentary views ; (for you know how low they stoop) in which case it will become subservient to the worst, instead of the best designs. Remember the Linen-board, where the paltry dividend of a little flax-feed was become the seed of jobbs, which indeed produced one hundred fold. However, I submit my fears to your hopes ; and will do all that I can to promote that Charter which you, who I am sure have considered it in every light, seem so desirous of. Mr. Maccauley, who is now here, has brought over the rough draught of a Charter, which he and I are to meet and consider of next week. I hope your worthy fellow labourers, and my worthy friends, the bishop of Meath and Mr. Prior are well. May you long be so, for the good of mankind, and for the particular satisfaction of,

Your most sincere friend and faithful servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

I hope you will send me the other Cantos by proper opportunities, for I long to see them.

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LETTER XV.

TO THE SAME.

London, November 29, 1748.

S I R,

**A** RETURN of my old complaint of vertigos and pains in my head, which sent me to Bath, from whence I am but lately arrived here, and that with less benefit than I hoped for, delayed till now my acknowledgments