
We have been favoured with the following Letters, written by the late EARL of CHESTERFIELD to different persons.

CCCCXLII.

LETTRE de Recommandation, en faveur de Madame Cleland, adressée à Madame de Tencin.

Londres, ce 20 Aoust, V. S.

COMBATTU par des mouvemens bien différens, j'ai long-tems ballancé, avant que d'oser me déterminer, à vous envoie'r cette lettre. Je sento'is toute l'indiscrétion d'une telle démarche, et à quel point c'étoit abuser de la bonté que vous avez eu pour moi, pendant mon séjour à Paris, que de vous la redemander pour un autre : mais sollicité vivement par une Dame que son mérite met à l'abri des refus, et porté, d'ailleurs, à profiter du moindre prétexte pour rappeler un souvenir qui m'est si précieux, que le vôtre ; le penchant (comme il arrive presque toujours) a triomphé de la discrétion : et je satisfais en même tems à mes propres inclinations et aux instances de Madame Cleland, qui aura l'honneur de vous rendre cette lettre.

Je sçais par expérience, Madame (car j'en suis moi-même un exemple) que ce n'est pas la première affaire de la sorte, à laquelle votre réputation, qui ne se renferme point dans les bornes de la France,

vou

vous a exposée : mais je me flatte, aussi, que vous ne la trouverez pas la plus défagréable. Un mérite supérieur, un esprit juste, délicat, orné par la lecture de tout ce qu'il y a de bon dans toutes les langues, et un grand usage du monde, qui ont acquis à Madame Cleland l'estime et la considération de tout ce qu'il y a d'honnêtes gens icy, me rassurent sur la liberté, que je prends, de vous la recommander ; et me persuadent même que vous ne m'en sçavez pas mauvais gré.

Si vous me demandez, par hasard, pourquoi elle m'a choisi pour son introducteur chez vous, et pourquoi elle a crû, que je m'étois acquis ce droit là ; je vous dirai naturellement, que c'est moi, qui en suis cause. En cela j'ai suivi l'exemple de la plupart des voyageurs, qui, à leur retour, se font valoir chez eux, par leurs prétendues liaisons avec ce qu'il y a de plus distingué, chez les autres. Les Rois, les Princes, et les Ministres, les ont toujours comblé de leurs grâces. Et moiënnant ce faux étalage d'honneurs qu'ils n'ont point recû, ils acquièrent une considération qu'ils ne méritent point.

J'ai vanté vos bontés pour moi ; je les ai exagérées même, s'il étoit possible ; et enfin, pour ne vous rien cacher, ma vanité a poussé l'effronterie au point même de me donner pour vôtre ami favori, et enfant de la maison. Quand Madame Cleland m'a pris au mot, et m'a dit ; “ Je vais bientôt en France ; je “ n'y ambitionne rien tant, que l'honneur de connoître Madame de Tencin ; vous qui êtes si bien là,

“ il ne vous coutera rien de me donner une lettre
“ pour elle.”

Le cas étoit embarrassant : car, après ce que j'avois dit, un refus auroit été trop choquant à Madame Cleland, et l'aveu, que je n'étois pas en droit de le faire, trop humiliant pour mon amour propre. Si bien que je me suis trouvé réduit à risquer le paquet, et je crois même que je l'aurois fait, si je n'avois pas eu l'honneur de vous connoître du tout, plutôt que de me donner le démenti sur un article si sensible.

Ayant donc franchi le pas ; je voudrois bien en profiter, pour vous exprimer les sentimens de reconnaissance que j'ai, et que j'aurai toujours des bontés que vous m'avez temoigné à Paris ; je voudrois aussi vous exprimer tout ce que je pense des qualités qui distinguent votre cœur et votre esprit, de tous les autres : mais cela me mèneroit également au delà des bornes d'une lettre, et au dessus des mes forces.

Je souhaitterois que Monsieur de Fontenelle voulut bien s'en charger pour moi. Sur cet article, je puis dire, sans vanité, que nous pensons de même ; avec cette différence, qu'il vous le diroit avec cet esprit, cette délicatesse, et cette élégance, qui lui sont propres, et seules convenables au sujet.

Permettez donc, Madame, que destitué de tous ces avantages de l'esprit, je vous assure simplement des sentimens de mon cœur, de l'estime, de la vénération, et de l'attachement respectueux, avec lequel je serai toute ma vie, Madame, Votre, &c.

Je

Je crois que vous me pardonnerez bien, si je vous supplie de faire mes complimens à Monsieur de Fontenelle.

TRANSLATION.

LETTER of Recommendation, in favour of
Mrs. Cleland, to Madame de Tencin.

London, August the 20th, O. S.

AGITATED by various thoughts, I have long been in suspense, before I durst resolve to send this letter. I felt all the indiscretion of such a step, and how much it would be trespassing upon the goodness I had experienced from you during my stay at Paris, to require the same for another. A lady, whose merit secures her from a refusal, has entreated me in the most pressing manner, and my own inclinations have concurred, to make use of the first opportunity, to recall a remembrance which will always give me pleasure; so that inclination having (as it generally happens) overpowered discretion, my own wishes, and Mrs. Cleland's desires, will both be gratified, by her having the honour of presenting this letter to you.

I know, Madam, by experience, and am myself a proof, that this is not the first affair of that kind, which your reputation, not confined within the limits of France, has brought upon you; but I flatter myself that you will not look upon this as the most disagreeable.

disagreeable. Superior merit, exquisite and refined sense, adorned by the knowledge of the best authors in every language, and a thorough usage of the world, have acquired Mrs. Cleland the esteem and consideration of all people of most merit here. These motives encourage me to take the liberty of recommending her to you, and even persuade me that you will not be offended at it.

If, by chance, you should ask why this lady has made choice of me to be her introducer towards you, and how she came to believe that I had any such right; I will candidly own, that I myself have been the cause of it: and, in this respect, I have followed the example of most travellers; who, at their return to their own country, endeavour to raise their reputation, by boasting of imaginary connexions with the most distinguished people abroad. Kings, Princes, and Ministers, have always loaded them with favours: in consequence of those boasted honours, which they never received, they often acquire a degree of consideration which they do not deserve.

I have boasted of your goodness to me; I have even, if possible, exaggerated it; and, in short (not to conceal any thing from you), Vanity has even drove me to declare that I was your favourite friend, and domesticated in your house. Mrs. Cleland immediately seized this opportunity to say; “I am going to France soon; I wish for nothing so much, as to have the honour of knowing Madame de Tencin: since you are so much connected, you can easily give me a letter for her.”

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This was an intricate affair ; for, after what I had said, Mrs. Cleland might have been shocked by a refusal, and my self-love would have been too cruelly hurt, if I had owned that I had no right to do any such thing. So that I find myself under a necessity of running all hazards ; and, I really believe, that, even if I had not been known to you at all, I should still have done it, rather than have confessed so mortifying a thing.

As the first step is now taken, I wish to make the best use of it, by expressing to you the sentiments of gratitude which I have, and ever shall retain, for your goodness to me, during my stay at Paris. I wish it were in my power to tell you also what I think of those perfections, which distinguish your heart and your mind so eminently from all others ; but this would carry me beyond the bounds of a letter, and is, indeed, more than I know how to express. Mr. de Fontenelle might undertake this for me ; for, to say the truth, I know that our opinions upon that subject coincide ; with this difference only, that he would express those sentiments with all that energy, delicacy, and elegance, so peculiar to him, and so very proper for the subject.

Permit me then, Madam, though destitute of all those advantages of mind, to assure you simply of the sentiments of my heart ; and of the esteem, veneration, and respectful attachment, with which I shall always remain

Yours, &c.

P. S. I am persuaded that you will forgive my troubling you to make my compliments to Mr. de Fontenelle.

CCCCXLIII.

L E T T E R.

Londres, ce 1 Janvier, V. S.

MADAM

J'E ne suis pas diseur de bonne aventure, ains au contraire ; car je vous annonce que ces quatre billets ; que j'ai choisi avec tant d'attention, et que j'estimois, l'un portant l'autre, à vingt mille pièces au moins, se sont avisés d'être tous blancs.

Je ne me console de votre malheur que par les belles réflexions qu'il me fait faire, et par la morale utile que j'en tire, pour le reste de mes jours.—Oui ! Je vois bien, à présent, que toute la prudence humaine, les mesures les plus sages, et les projets les mieux concertés sont frivoles, si la Fortune, cette Divinité inconstante, bizarre et *feminine*, n'est pas d'humeur à les favoriser. Car que pouvoit-on faire de plus que je n'ai fait, et qu'en pouvoit-il arriver de moins ?

Se donnera-t'on, après cela, du mouvement, formera-t'on des plans, et s'inquiétera-t'on, pour les choses de ce monde ? J'ose dire, que si ces réflexions, aussi judicieuses que nouvelles, font la même impression sur votre esprit qu'elles ont fait sur le mien, elles vous vaudront plus, que tout ce que vous auriez pu gagner dans la lotterie.

VOL. IV.

B b

Vous

Vous êtes bien querelleuse, Madame ; jusqu'à s'accorder un talent, que je n'ai pas, pour pouvoir, après, me reprocher de ne le pas employer avec vous ; et je m'épuise, dites vous, en *bon ton*, avec Madame de Monconseil. Quelle accusation injuste, et dénuée de toute vraisemblance ! Un Milord Anglois avec le *bon ton* ! Ce sont deux choses absolument contradictoires : ou, pour m'expliquer plus clairement, et simplifier mon idée ; ce sont deux Etres hétérogènes, dont l'existence de l'un implique nécessairement la privation de l'autre.

Me voici donc justifié dans toutes les formes de la logique ; et si vous n'en êtes pas contente, Madame de Monconseil, qui a en main mes pièces justificatives, pourra vous en convaincre. Au reste ; si j'en possédois tant soit peu, ce nouvel an me fourniroit une belle occasion de l'étaler. Et quoique depuis plus de cinq mille ans, toute la terre ait traité ce sujet ; je vous dirois quelque chose de nouveau, de galant, et d'obscur, dont on ne s'est jamais avisé auparavant : votre mérite, et les sentimens de mon cœur, y seroient alembiqués, jusqu'à la plus fine quintessence.

TRANSLATION.

London, January the 1st, O. S.

MADAM,

I HAVE no skill in fortune-telling : for I must acquaint you, that the four lottery-tickets I had chosen with so much care, and valued one with another at the rate of (at least) twenty thousand pounds, are all come out blanks.

My only consolation in this misfortune is, the fine reflections which it occasions, and the most useful Moral drawn from it, for the rest of my days. Now, I plainly see that all human prudence, the wisest projects, and the best-concerted schemes, are vain and frivolous ; if Fortune, that capricious, inconstant, and *feminine* Deity, is not disposed to favour them : for what more could have been done than I did, and what less could have happened ?

After such a reverse, shall we ever take pains, form projects, or be uneasy concerning worldly events ? I will venture to say, that if such reflections, equally judicious as new, make the same impression upon your mind, that they do upon mine, they will be more valuable than all you could have won in the Lottery.

Surely, Madam, you must have a great inclination to quarrel, since you allow me to be in possession of a talent which I really have not ; in order to reproach me with not availing myself of it towards you, while,

say you, "I exhaust that talent of saying agreeable things in favour of Madame de Monconseil." What an unjust accusation, and how void of all probability! An English Lord, and say things in fashionable French phrases! This is quite contradictory; or, to explain myself more clearly, and to simplify my idea, I must answer, that they are two heterogeneous Beings; the existence of the one necessarily implying the non-existence of the other.

Now I think my justification complete, according to all the rules of logic; but, if that does not suffice, Madame de Monconseil has it in her power to convince you, by producing my letters.

Was I possessed of the talent you suppose, the New-year would be a proper occasion to display it on; and, although that subject has been treated by the whole world for above five thousand years, yet I should then say something new, gallant, and unintelligible, which never before was thought of. Your merit, and the sentiments of my heart, would then be distilled to the most refined quintessence.

CCCCXLIV.

L E T T E R.

A Londres, ce 9^{me} Fevrier, O. S.

ADIEU donc toute coquetterie, de part et d'autre, et vive la vrai et solide amitié ! Heureux ceux qui peuvent s'y attendre ; c'est le gros lot, dans la lotterie du monde, contre lequel il y a des millions de billets blancs.

S'il pouvoit y avoir quelque chose de flatteur dans mon amitié ; je dirois, que nous pourrions nous flatter que la nôtre feroit également vraie et durable ; puisqu'elle est à l'abri de tous ces petits incidens, qui brouillent la plûpart des autres. D'abord, nous sommes de différent sexe, article assez important ; et qui nous garantit de ces défiances et de ces rivalités, sur les objets les plus sensibles, et contre lesquels la plus belle amitié du monde ne tient point. En second lieu : il n'entre point d'amour dans nôtre fait ; qui, quoique, à la verité, il donne un grand feu à l'amitié, pendant un certain tems, la flamme de l'un venant à s'éteindre, on voit bientôt les cendres de l'autre. Et enfin (ce qui me regarde uniquement) nous ne nous voïons pas trop. Vous ne me connoissez que par mon bon côté ; et vous ne voïez pas ces momens de langueur, d'humeur, et de chagrin, qui causent, si souvent, le dégout ou le repentir des

liaisons qu'on a formé, et qui font, qu'on se dit à soi-même ; L'auroit-on crû ? Qui l'auroit dit ? Comme on peut se tromper aux dehors ? Et la perspective, dans laquelle vous me voïez, m'est si favorable, qu'elle me console un peu *della lontananza*, ou je suis obligé de vous chercher.

Une caillette, a beaux sentimens, critiqueroit impitoyablement ceux-ci comme tres *indélicats* ; mais en sont-ils moins naturels pour cela ? Et ne sommes nous pas, pour la plûpart, redevables de nos vertus à des situations et des circonstances un peu fortuites ? Au moins j'ai assez d'humilité pour le croire ; et (si je voulois dire toute la verité) assez d'expérience, de moi-même, pour le sçavoir. • En tous cas ; tel que je suis, je vous suis acquis, et vous voïez que je suis de trop bonne foi pour vous surfaire dans le prix de l'acquisition que vous avez faite.

Vous avez beau faire les honneurs de vôtres païs, et défavouer vôtres propriétés exclusives des Graces ; il faut convenir, pourtant, que la France est leur séjour, ou plutôt leur païs natal. Si, elles pouvoient se fâcher contre vous, dont il y a peu d'apparence ; elles seroient piquées, au point de vous quitter, de ce que vous les envoïez promener dans un païs, ou elles ne connoissent, ni ne sont connues de personne : et si par hasard je les conçois, ce ne seroit que pour les avoir vûes si souvent chez vous.

Il est bien sur que les Graces sont un don de la nature, qu'on ne peut pas acquérir ; l'art en peut relever l'éclat, mais il faut que la nature ait donné le fond. On voit cela en tout. Combien de gens ne
dansent-

danſent-ils pas parfaitement bien, mais ſans grace ; comme il y en a qui danſent très mal avec beaucoup : combien trouvé-t'-on d'eſprits vigoureux et délicats, qui inſtruits et ornés par tout ce que l'art et l'étude peuvent faire, ne plaiſent pourtant guère, faute de ces graces naturelles, qui ne s'acquièrent point : chaque païs a ſes talens, auſſi bien que ſes fruits et ſes denrées particulières. Nous penſons *cruetz*, et nous aprofondifſons ; les Italiens perſent *haut*, et ſe perdent dans les nûes : vous tenez le milieu ; on vous voit, oh vous fuit, on vous aime.

Servez vous, Madame, de tout ce que cet eſprit et ces graces, que je vous connois, peuvent faire en ma faveur, et dites, je vous en ſupplie, tout ce qu'elles vous ſuggéreront, à Monſieur de Matignon, de ma part. Mon cœur ne vous déſavouera pas ſur tout ce que vous pourrez lui dire de plus fort, à propos du mariage de Mademoiſelle ſa fille : mais ne vous bornez pas à ce ſeul article, car il n'y en a pas un, au monde, qui peut le regarder, auquel je ne prendrois pas également part. Ce ſeroit abuſer de ſa bonté que de lui écrire moi-même : une meſſagère comme vous me fera bien plus d'honneur, et à lui plus de plaiſir.

Adieu, Madame. Je rougis de la longueur de ma lettre.

TRANSLATION.

London, February the 9th, O. S.

ADIEU then to all coquetry, on both sides, and prosperity to real and solid friendship! In this lottery of the world, happy are those who can obtain that greatest prize, to which there are millions of blanks. If any thing could be pleasing in my friendship, I would urge that we have reason to flatter ourselves, that with us friendship may be equally true and permanent, since ours will be unattended by all those little incidents, which are the bane of others. We are of different sexes; an important article, and such a one as prevents those suspicions, and sentiments of rivalry, which the finest friendships that ever were formed cannot withstand. Secondly, we are free from love, which, though it may, during a time, add warmth to friendship, yet when the flames of the one begin to extinguish, you soon perceive the ashes of the other. And lastly (but this relates only to myself), we do not see one another too frequently. You view me in the best light, and do not perceive those moments of languor, caprice, or ill-humour, which are so generally the occasion of dislike, cause us to repent of the connections we have formed, and are the motives that occasion our saying, Who would have thought it? Who could have imagined it? How one may be deceived by outward appearances!

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The distant point from which you view me is so very favourable, that it affords me some consolation for being under the necessity of remaining so far from you.

A trifling woman, with pretensions to refined sentiments, would criticise these unmercifully, as very indelicate; but are they the less natural? And are not most of us beholden for our virtue to particular circumstances, or to accidental causes? As for me, I have humility to own, and (were I to tell the whole truth) self-experience to confirm it. At all events, such as I am, you may dispose of me; and you see I am too ingenuous to deceive you, by enhancing the merits of the person who is entirely yours.

It is in vain you strive to do the honours of your country, by disavowing your exclusive right to the Graces; for it must be confessed that France is their abode, or rather their native country. It is highly improbable that they can be angry with you; but, were that possible, they would be provoked to leave you, as a punishment for sending them a rambling, into a country where they neither know, nor are known by any mortal. If, by chance, I had any knowledge of those Goddeffes, it could only be from having seen them so frequently with you. It is true, that the Graces cannot be acquired; art may add to their lustre, but nature must have given them. It is the same in every thing. How many people are there who dance exceedingly well, but ungracefully! and what numbers who dance very ill, and yet gracefully! Do we not see frequently people with great
and

and good sense ; who, though instructed and adorned by knowledge and study, yet never can please, for want of those natural Graces, not to be acquired ?

Every country has talents peculiar to it, as well as fruits, or other natural productions. We here think deeply, and fathom to the very bottom. Italian thoughts are sublime, to a degree beyond all comprehension. You keep the middle path, and consequently are seen, followed, and beloved.

I beg of you, Madam, make use of all that sense, and those Graces, which I know you to be possessed of, in my favour, by telling Mr. de Matignon, whatever they may inspire you, from me. The most friendly things you can say to him, upon the marriage of his daughter, will best explain the sentiments of my heart. But do not confine yourself to that circumstance alone, for there is no event whatever that concerns him, in which I should not take an equal share. To write myself to Mr. de Matignon would be inroaching upon his goodness ; such a messenger as you must be more honourable to me, and more pleasing to him.

Adieu, Madam. I am ashamed of the length of this letter.

CCCCXLV.

These Lines are inserted, in order to introduce the following
Letter with greater propriety.

To the EARL of CHESTERFIELD,
August the 7th, 1763.

RECLIN'D beneath thy shade, Blackheath !

From politics and strife apart,
His temples twin'd with laurel-wreath ;
And virtues smiling at his heart ;

Will CHESTERFIELD the Muse allow
To break upon his still retreat ?
To view, if Health still smooths his brow,
And prints his grove with willing feet ?

'Twas this awak'd the present theme,
And bade it reach thy distant ear :
Where, if no rays of Genius beam,
Sincerity at least is there.

May pale Disease fly far aloof ?
Or venal domes its flag display !
And Health, beneath thy peaceful roof,
Add lustre to thine evening ray !

If this my fervent wish be crown'd,
— I'll dress with flow'rs Hygeia's shrine ;
Nor thou, with Wisdom's chaplet bound,
At any absent gift repine.

What though thou dost not grace a throne,
While subjects bend the supple knee ;
No other King the Muses own,
And Science lifts her eye to thee.

Though deafness, by a doom severe,
Steals from thy ear the mœrm'ring rill,
And Philomel's delightful air ;
Ev'n deem not this a partial ill.

Ah ! if anew thine ear was strung,
Awake to ev'ry voice around,
Thy praises by the many sung,
Would stun thee with the choral sound.

EDWARD JERNINGHAM.

CCCCXLVI.

L E T T E R

TO EDWARD JERNINGHAM, Esquire.

Blackheath, August the 12th, 1763.

SIR,

I DO not know whether I can, with decency, acknowledge the favour of your poetical letter of the 7th. But Men, as well as Women, are very apt to break through decency, when desire is very strong, as mine I assure you is, to thank you for it. Could I give you as good as you bring, my thanks should be conveyed to you in rhyme and metre; but the Muses, who never were very propitious to me when I was young, would now laugh at, and be as deaf as I am, to the invocation of a *septuagenary* invalid. Accept then my humblest thanks, in humble prose, for your very good verses, upon a very indifferent subject; which, should you be reproached with, you may very justly make the same answer that your predecessor, Waller, did to King Charles, after the Restoration: the King accused him of having made finer verses in praise of Oliver Cromwell, than of himself; to which he agreed, saying, that Fiction was the soul of poetry. Am I not generous to help you out of this scrape at my own expence? I am sensible that before I end this letter, I ought to show
some

some common-place modesty at least ; and protest to you that I am ashamed, confounded, and in a manner annihilated, by the praises you most undeservedly bestow upon me ; but I will not, because if I did I should lie confoundedly ; for every human creature has vanity, and perhaps I have full as much as another. The only difference is, that some people disown any, and others avow it ; whereas I have truth and impudence enough to say, *tu m'aduli ma tu mi piaci.*

What am I to suppose that you are now doing in Norfolk ?

*Scribere quod Cassi Parmensis opuscula vincat,
An tacitum sylvas inter reptare salubres ?*

If you stray among the hills, vales, and purling streams, it is to make your court to the Muses, who have long had such an affection for you, that (I will answer for it) they will meet you wherever you please to appoint them. If to those nine ideal Ladies you add a tenth, of real good country flesh and blood, I cannot help it : but God forbid that I should advise it ! In all events, I believe you would be equal to the ten.

I am, with equal truth and esteem,

SIR,

Your most faithful humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

P. S. I desire my respects to Lady Jerningham. But not one word of the tenth Muse.

CCCCXLVII.

CCCCXLVII.

L E T T E R

TO DOCTOR MONSEY.

Bath, December the 23d, 1767.

DEAR DOCTOR,

YOUR friend and my Governor, Mr. W——, told me that he had received a letter from you, with your kind inquiries after my health; but at the same time said, that I might e'en answer it myself; for how the devil should he know how I did, so well as I myself did? I thought there was reason in what he said; so take the account of myself from myself, as follows. When I first came here, which was just six weeks ago, I was very weak of my legs, and am so still. A fortnight ago I had a little return of my fever, which Doctor Moisy called only a *Febricula*; for which he prescribed phlebotomy, and, of course, the saline draughts. The phlebotomy did me good, and the saline draughts did me no harm, which is all I ask of any medicine, or any *medicus*. My general state of health has, ever since that, been as good as, at my age, I can hope for; t'at is, I have a good appetite, a good digestion, and good sleep. You will, perhaps, ask me what more I would have? I answer, that I would have a great deal more, if I could; I would have the free use of my legs, and
of

of all my *members*. But that, I know, is past praying for. Perhaps you may be in the same case. Whom have you quarrelled with, or whom have you been reconciled to lately? The House of G——, or the house of M——? And where are you now; in Norfolk or Monmouthshire? Wherever you are, I hope you are *vastly* well; for I am very sincerely,

Your most faithful friend and servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

CCCCXLVIII.

L E T T E R

TO DOCTOR MONSEY.

PRAY, dear Doctor, why must I not write to you? Do you gentlemen of the Faculty pretend to monopolize writing in your prescriptions or proscriptions? I will write, and thank you for your kind letters; and my writing shall do no hurt to any person living or dying: let the Faculty say as much of theirs, if they can. I am very sorry to find that you have not been *vastly* well of late; but it is *vastly* to the honour of your skill to have encountered and subdued almost all the ills of Pandora's Box. As you are now got to the bottom of it, I trust that you have found Hope; which is what we all live upon, much
more

more than upon Enjoyment; and without which we should be, from our boasted Reason, the most miserable animals of the Creation. I do not think that a Physician should be admitted into the College, till he could bring proofs of his having cured, in his own person, at least four *incurable* distempers. In the old days of laudable and rational Chivalry, a Knight could not even present himself to the adorable object of his affections till he had been unhorsed, knocked down, and had two or three spears or lances in his body; but, indeed, he must be conqueror at last, as you have been. I do not know your Goddess Venus or *Vana*, nor ever heard of her; but, if she is really a Goddess, I must know her as soon as ever I see her walk into the rooms; for *vera incessu patuit Dea*. It is for her sake, I presume, that you now make yourself a year younger than you are; for last year you and I were exactly of an age, and now I am turned of seventy-three. As to my body natural, it is as you saw it last; it labours under no particular distemper but one, which may very properly be called Chronical, for it is *Xpovos* itself, that daily steals away some part of me. But I bear with philosophy these gradual depredations upon myself; and well know, that *levius fit patientid quicquid corrigere est nefas*. And so good night, dear Doctor.

Bath, November 26th, 1766.

CCCCXLIX.

L E T T E R.

From the Earl of CHESTERFIELD to Sir THOMAS
ROBINSON, of Chelsea.

Bath, November 17th, 1757.

SIR,

YOUR letters always give me pleasure and information; but your last gave me something more, for it showed me that you were recovered from that illness, which the fears of Mr. Walsh, junior, had magnified into a dangerous one. I did not like your being sent to Hampstead for the air; that sounded very like Kensington Gravel-Pits. I am sure I need not tell you the part I take in your recovery.

As to General ——'s affairs, my opinion is fixed; and I am very sure that nothing will appear upon this examination to make me alter it. There is a mystery in it; and wherever there is a mystery, I have done; I respect, but never reason. The Ode upon that expedition is written by a master, whoever it is. The author of the verses upon the scull is certainly a poet, though he has spun out his matter too fine; half the length would have been much better.

I cannot imagine why the Grub upon the Comet was laid at my door: but people have long thrown out their wit and humour under my name, by way of
trial;

trial; if it takes, the true father owns his child; if it does not, the foundling is mine.

I take it for granted, that the King of Prussia's victory engrosses the thoughts of all your great politicians in town, and gives you what you call great spirits: he has shewn his abilities in it; of which I never doubted; but then—nothing, only that there are now seven or eight thousand of the human species less than there were a month ago. France will send double that number immediately, and the match will be as unequal as it was before; since all Europe is still combined against him, I will not say, *and us*; because I think it would be impudent *for us*, now, to reckon ourselves among the Powers of Europe; I might as well reckon myself among the living, who only crawl upon the earth from day to day, exhibiting a shattered carcase, and a weakened mind.

Though these waters always do me some good, it is merely temporary; but they do by no means regenerate me. I grow deafer and deafer, consequently duller and duller; and therefore, for your sake, I will put an end to this dull letter; and assure you, with all the truth of a man who has no invention, that I am,

Your most faithful, humble servant,
CHESTERFIELD.

CCCCCL

L E T T E R

From Lord CHESTERFIELD to Sir T. ROBINSON.

SIR,

Bath, December 3d, 1765.

I ALWAYS thought myself much obliged to you for your letters from Yorkshire, while you were in the hurry both of business and pleasure; your land-steward, your tenants, and your agreeable country neighbours, employing your whole day in pleasure and profit: but I think myself still more obliged to you for your last letter, from your Monastic retreat in the midst of Ranelagh Garden; the place in the world the best calculated for serious reflections upon the vanities of this world, and the hopes of a better. There you may enjoy a philosophical and religious solitude, uninterrupted; except, now and then, by the rolling of coaches, the sound of forty instruments of music, and the much shriller sound of the tongues of about two thousand women. This is being a *Chartreux* indeed; and in addressing myself to you, I will take care to mix no levity in my letter; but confine myself to grave and moral reflexions. For instance; see the dire effects of passion, or brandy, or both, in the case of Mr. —, whose usual tranquillity and immobility have been transported to the most violent excesses of assault and battery, even upon

on

on the wife of his body ; whom, I really believe, he never assaulted with so much spirit before ; and if he gets the reputation of madness, he will rather be a gainer by it ; for nobody ever thought it could have happened to him. We have here a great many great folks, and a great many fine folks ; the former met in counsel, to consider how they should best serve their country in the approaching session, that being their only view ; and the latter, I mean the Ladies, in the intention of serving themselves, or of being served right enough by others. But all these are dispersed, or dispersing now ; and, I believe, I shall follow their example soon, and take myself away from hence to London ; where I am too material a part of the busy, as well as of the gallant world, to be longer absent. But, whatever I am, and wherever I am, I am, very truly,

SIR,

Your very faithful, humble servant,

CHESTERFIELD.

I N D E X

T O

LORD CHESTERFIELD'S LETTERS

T O H I S S O N.

** * * The whole Series of Letters being regularly numbered; it has been thought advisable that the references in this Index should be made to the Letters, rather than in the common method of volume and page. The few Miscellaneous Pieces at the end of Vol. IV. are referred to in the same manner.*

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