

1694-1773

LORD CHESTERFIELD'S  
**ADVICE TO HIS SON,**  
ON  
**MEN AND MANNERS:**

Title

OR A  
**NEW SYSTEM OF EDUCATION;**

IN WHICH  
**THE PRINCIPLES OF POLITENESS,**

**THE ART OF ACQUIRING  
A KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD,**  
With every instruction necessary to form  
**A MAN OF**

*Honour, Virtue, Taste, and Fashion,*

**ARE LAID DOWN IN  
A PLAIN, EASY, FAMILIAR MANNER,**  
*Adapted to every Station and Capacity.*

**THE WHOLE ARRANGED ON  
A PLAN ENTIRELY NEW.**

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author Chesterfield, Philip Dormer Stanhope,  
Earl of.

Many people at first from awkwardness have got a very silly and disagreeable trick of laughing whenever they speak; and there are none that equal Comte Buffy's, know men of very good parts, who cannot say the commonest thing without laughing which makes those who do not know them take them at first for natural fools.

## LETTER WRITING.

IT is of the utmost importance to write letters well; as this is a talent which daily occurs, as well in business as in pleasure and inaccuracies in orthography, or in style are never pardoned but in ladies, nor hardly pardonable in them. The Epistles of Cicero are the most perfect models of good breeding.

Letters should be easy and natural, as convey to the persons to whom we send them, just what we should say to those persons if we were present with them.

The best models of Letter writing are Cicero, Cardinal d'Ossat, Madame Savigne and Comte Buffy Rabutin. Cicero's Epistles to Atticus, and to his familiar friends, are the best examples in the world of an easy and familiar style. The simplicity and clearness of the letters of Cardinal d'Ossat

show how letters of business ought to be written. For gay and amusing letters, there are none that equal Comte Buffy's, and Madame Savigne's. They are so natural, that they seem to be the extempore conversation of two persons of wit, rather than letters.

Neatness in folding up, sealing, and directing letters, is by no means to be neglected. There is something in the exterior, even of a letter, that may please or displease, and consequently deserves some attention.

## NICK NAME.

THERE is something that a young man at his first appearance in the world, has more reason to dread, and therefore should take more pains to avoid, than having any ridiculous name fixed on him. In the opinion even of the most rational men, it will degrade him, and ruin him with the rest. Many a man has been undone by acquiring a ridiculous name. The causes of nick names among well bred men, are generally the little defects in manner, elocution, air, or address. Some have the appellation of muttering, awkward, ill bred, absent, left legged, annexed ways to your name, would injure you more

Easy & natural

tolerable education would despise and laugh at her lover, if he should send her an ill-spelled *billet-doux*.

STYLE.

STYLE is the dress of thoughts; and though them be ever so just, if your style is homely, coarse and vulgar, they will appear to much disadvantage, and be as ill received as your person, though ever so well proportioned, would, if dressed in rags, dirt, and tatters. It is not every understanding that can judge of matter; but every ear can do so, does judge, more or less, of style.

Mind your diction in whatever language you either write or speak; contract a habit of correctness and elegance. Consider your style even in the freest conversation, and in your most familiar letters. After, at least if you have not before, you have laid a thing, reflect if you could not have said it better.

WRITING.

Every man who has the use of his eyes and his right hand, can write whatever hand pleases. Nothing is so ungentlemanlike as a school boy's scrawl. I do not desire you to write a stiff formal hand, like that of

school master, but a genteel, legible, and liberal character, and to be able to write quick. As to the correctness and elegance of your writing, attention to grammar does the one, and to the best authors the other. Epistolary correspondence should be easy and natural, and convey to the persons just what we would say if we were with them.

VULGAR EXPRESSIONS.

VULGARISM in language is a certain characteristic of bad company, and a bad education. Proverbial expressions, and trite sayings, are the flowers of the rhetoric of a vulgar man. Would he say, that men differ in their tastes; he both supports and adorns that opinion, by the good old saying, as he respectfully calls it, "What is one man's meat is another man's poison." If any man attempts being *smart*, as he calls it, upon him, he gives him *tit for tat* - *aye*, that he does. He has always some favourite word for the time being; which, for the sake of using often, he commonly abuses; such as *vastly* angry, *vastly* kind, *vastly* handsome, and *vastly* ugly. Even his pronunciation of proper words, carries the mark of the beast along with it. He calls

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