Lord Chesterfield To His Son

A. About Letter-Writing — 演習書之一 ——

Bath, October 4, 1738.

My Dear Child—By my writing so often, and by the manner in which I write, you will easily see that I do not treat you as a little child; but as a boy who loves to learn, and is ambitious of receiving instructions. I am even persuaded, that, in reading my letters, you are attentive, not only to the subject of which they treat, but likewise to the orthography and to the style. It is of the greatest importance to write letters well; as this is a talent which unambiguously occurs every day of one’s life, as well in business as in pleasure; and inaccuracies in orthography or in style are never pardoned in ladies. When you are older, you will read the “Epistles” (that is to say Letters) of Cicero, which are the most perfect models of good writing. A propos of Cicero, I must give you some account of him. He was an old Roman, who lived eighteen hundred years ago; a man of great genius, and the most celebrated orator that ever was. Will it not be necessary to explain to you what an orator is? I believe I trust. An orator is a man who inaugurates in the public assembly, and who speaks with eloquence; this is a topic which, in a well-thinking man, has a fine style, and chooseth his words properly; but now no man succeeded better than Cicero in all those different points he had occasion to speak upon, in the whole people of Rome assembled; and by the help of his eloquence, persuaded them to whatever he pleased. At other times, he used to undertake causes, and plead for his clients in courts of justice, and in those cases he generally had all the suffrage, but to say, all the opinions, all the decisions, in his favor. While the Roman republic enjoyed its freedom, he did very signal service to his country; but after it was enfeebled by Julius Caesar, the first Emperor of the

IDIOMS

1. A feather in one’s cap.

Lord Chesterfield was referring to the Supreme Court ruling against segregation in the case of Brown v. Board of Education in the United States.

LAST WEEK’S CROSWORDS

ARTIFICIAL  N  ANALYTICAL  M  M  M
  I  I  I  S  K  E  D  P  O
  M  A  N  L  A  N  T  I  C  O
  T  A  N  T  S  A  S  O  L
  D  A  L  U  A  B  R
  X
  L  O  N  T  A  T  I
  R  E  E  R  F  E  C

Reflective