



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

To Mr. Dryden.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53615](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53615)



To Mr. DRYDEN.



O W long, great Poet, shall thy sa-
cred Lays
Provoke our Wonder, and transcend
our Praise?
Can neither injuries of Time, or
Age,
Damp thy Poetick Heat, and quench
thy Rage?
Not so thy *Ovid* in his Exile wrote,

Grief chill'd his Breast, and check'd his rising Thought;
Pensive and sad, his drooping Muse betrays
The *Roman* Genius in its last Decays.

B 2

Pre-

4 POEMS on several OCCASIONS.

Prevailing Warmth has still thy mind possess'd,
 And second Youth is kindled in thy breast;
 Thou mak'st the beauties of the *Romans* known,
 And *England* boasts of riches not her own;
 Thy lines have heighten'd *Virgil's* Majesty,
 And *Horace* wonders at himself in Thee.
 Thou teachest *Persius* to inform our isle
 In smoother Numbers, and a clearer Stile;
 And *Juvenal*, instructed in thy page,
 Edges his Satyr, and improves his Rage.
 Thy Copy casts a fairer Light on all,
 And still out-shines the bright Original.

Now *Ovid* boasts th' Advantage of thy Song,
 And tells his Story in the *British* tongue;
 Thy charming Verse, and fair Translations, show
 How thy own Laurel first began to grow;
 How wild *Lycaon* chang'd by angry Gods,
 And frighted at himself, ran howling through the Woods.

O mayst thou still the noble Task prolong,
 Nor Age, nor Sicknes interrupt thy song:
 Then may we wondering read, how Human Limbs
 Have water'd Kingdoms, and dissolv'd in Streams;
 Of those rich Fruits that on the fertile mould
 Turn'd yellow by degrees, and ripen'd into Gold:
 How some in Feathers, or a ragged Hide,
 Have liv'd a Second life, and different Natures try'd.
 Then will thy *Ovid*, thus transform'd, reveal
 A Nobler Change than he himself can tell.

Mag. Coll. Oxon,
 June 2. 1693.

The Author's age 22.

A