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The Works Of Alexander Pope Esq.

In Nine Volumes Complete. With His Last Corrections, Additions, And
Improvements; As they were delivered to the Editor a little before his
Death

Being The Third of his Letters

Pope, Alexander

London, 1751

[Falsch eingebundene Seite eines anderen Bandes.]

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Or these of the same hand.

^a *I leave the arts of poetry and verse
To them that practise them with more success :
Of greater truths I now prepare to tell,
And so at once, dear friend and muse, farewell.*

Sometimes a single *Word* will vulgarize a poetical idea; as where a Ship set on fire owes all the *Spirit* of the *Bathos* to one choice word that ends the line.

^r *And his scorch'd ribs the hot Contagion fry'd.*
And in that description of a World in ruins,
^s *Should the whole frame of nature round him break,
He unconcern'd would bear the mighty Crack.*

So also in these,

^t *Beasts tame and savage to the river's brink
Come, from the fields and wild abodes—to drink.*

Frequently two or three words will do it effectually,

^v *He from the clouds does the sweet liquor squeeze,
That cheers the Forest and the Garden trees.*

It is also useful to employ *Technical Terms*, which estrange your style from the great and general ideas of nature: and the higher your subject is, the lower should you search into mechanicks for your expression. If you describe the garment of an an-

^a Tonf. Misc. 12^o vol. iv. p. 292, fourth Edit. ^r Pr. Arthur, p. 151. ^s Tonf. Misc. vol. vi. p. 119. ^t Job, 263.
^v Id. Job, 264.

gel, say that his ^x *Linen* was *finely spun*, and *bleached on the happy Plains*. ^y Call an army of angels, *Angelic Cuirassiers*, and, if you have occasion to mention a number of misfortunes, style them

^z *Fresh Troops of Pains, and regimented Woes.*

STYLE is divided by the Rhetoricians into the Proper and the Figured. Of the Figured we have already treated, and the Proper is what our authors have nothing to do with. Of Styles we shall mention only the Principal which owe to the moderns either their chief Improvement, or entire Invention.

I. The FLORID Style,

than which none is more proper to the Bathos, as flowers, which are the *Lowest* of vegetables, are most *Gaudy*, and do many times grow in great plenty at the bottom of *Ponds* and *Ditches*.

A fine writer in this kind presents you with the following Poëie :

^a *The groves appear all drest with wreaths of flowers,
And from their leaves drop aromatic showers,
Whose fragrant heads in mystic twines above,
Exchang'd their sweets, and mix'd with thousand
kisses,*

^x Prince Authur, p. 19. ^y Ibid, p. 339. ^z Job, p. 86.

^a Behn's Poems, p. 2.