



UNIVERSITÄTS-  
BIBLIOTHEK  
PADERBORN

## Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

### **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**

Letter XCVIII. On the same.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-54342](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-54342)

as the expression seems, for you have made my system as clear as I ought to have done and could not. It is indeed the same system as mine, but illustrated with a ray of your own, as they say our natural body is the same still when it is glorified. I am sure I like it better than I did before, and so will every man else. I know I meant just what you explain, but I did not explain my own meaning so well as you. You understand me as well as I do myself, but you express me better than I could express myself. Pray accept the sincerest acknowledgments. I cannot but with these letters were put together in one book, and intend (with your leave) to procure a translation of part, at least, of all them into French<sup>c</sup>; but I shall not proceed a step without your consent and opinion, &c.

---

L E T T E R XCVIII.

May 26, 1739.

**T**HE dissipation in which I am obliged to live through many degrees of civil obligation, which ought not to rob a man of him-

<sup>c</sup> They were all translated into that language by a French gentleman of condition, who is now in an eminent station in his own country.

Y 3 self



self who passes for an independent one, and yet make me every body's servant more than my own: This, Sir, is the occasion of my silence to you, to whom I really have more obligation than to almost any man. By writing, indeed, I propos'd no more than to tell you my sense of it: As to any corrections of your *Letters* I could make none, but what result'd from inverting the Order of them, and those expressions relating to myself which I thought exaggerated. I could not find a word to alter in the last letter, which I return'd immediately to the Bookseller. I must particularly thank you for the mention you have made of me in your Postscript<sup>a</sup> to the last Edition of the *Legation of Moses*. I am much more pleas'd with a compliment that links me to a virtuous Man, and by the best similitude, that of a good mind (even a better and stronger tye than the similitude of studies) than I could be proud of any other whatsoever. May that independency, charity, and competency attend you, which sets a good priest above a bishop, and truly makes his Fortune; that is, his happiness in this life as well as in the other.

<sup>a</sup> He means, a *Vindication of the Author of the Divine Legation*, against some papers in the Weekly Miscel-

lany: in which the Editor applied to his own case those lines in the epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot,

*Me let the tender office long engage, &c.*

LETTER