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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**

CIV. His project of procuring a prose translation of his Essay into Latin, and his approbation of a specimen sent to him of it.

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FROM DR. SWIFT, etc. 335

originally, and does consequentially in a manner, animate all your goodness to me, the opinion you entertain of my honest intention in that piece, and your zeal to demonstrate me no irreligious man. I was very sincere with you in what I told you of my own opinion of my own character as a poet<sup>b</sup>, and, I think I may conscientiously say, I shall die in it. I have nothing to add, but that I hope sometimes to hear you are well, as you certainly shall now and then hear the best I can tell you of myself.

---

L E T T E R C I V .

Oct. 27, 1740.

**I** Am grown so bad a correspondent, partly thro' the weakness of my eyes, which has much increased of late, and partly thro' other disagreeable accidents (almost peculiar to me) that my oldest as well as best friends are reasonable enough to excuse me. I know you are of the number who deserve all the testimonies of any sort, which I can give you of esteem and friendship; and I confide in you, as a man of candour enough, to know it cannot be otherwise, if I am an honest one. So I will say no more on this head, but proceed to thank

<sup>a</sup> See his life.

you

you for your constant memory of whatever may be serviceable or reputable to me. The Translation,<sup>a</sup> you are a much better judge of than I, not only because you understand my work better than I do myself, but as your continued familiarity with the learned languages, makes you infinitely more a master of them. I would only recommend that the Translator's attention to Tully's Latinity may not preclude his usage of some *Terms* which may be more *precise* in modern philosophy than such as he could serve himself of, especially in matters metaphysical. I think this specimen close enough, and clear also, as far as the classical phrases allow; from which yet I would rather he sometimes deviated, than suffered the sense to be either dubious or clouded too much. You know my mind perfectly as to the intent of such a version, and I would have it accompanied with your own remarks translated, such only I mean as are general, or explanatory of those passages, which are concise to any degree of obscurity, or which demand perhaps too minute an attention in the reader.

I have been unable to make the Journey I designed to Oxford, and Lord Bathurst's, where I hoped to have made you of the party. I am going to Bath for near two months. Yet

<sup>a</sup> Of his *Essay on Man* into latin prose.

pray

FROM DR. SWIFT, etc. 337

pray let nothing hinder me sometimes from hearing you are well. I have had that contentment from time to time from Mr. G.

*Scriblerus*<sup>b</sup> will or will not be published, according to the event of some other papers coming, or not coming out, which it will be my utmost endeavour to hinder<sup>c</sup>. I will not give you the pain of acquainting you what they are. Your simile of B. and his nephew, would make an excellent epigram. But all Satire is become so ineffectual (when the last step that Virtue can stand upon, *shame*, is taken away) that Epigram must expect to do nothing even in its own little province, and upon its own little subjects. Adieu. Believe I wish you nearer us; the only power I wish, is that of attaching, and at the same time supporting, such congenial bodies as you are to, dear Sir,

Your, &c.

---

L E T T E R C V.

Bath, Feb. 4. 1740-1.

**I**F I had not been made by many accidents so sick of letter-writing, as to be almost

<sup>b</sup> The *Memoirs of Scriblerus*.

<sup>c</sup> The letters published by Dr. Swift.

Z

afraid