



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

CVIII. An account of his project for adding a fourth book to the Dunciad.

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

die before I receive one, in an art I am ignorant of, at a place where there remains any scruple of bestowing one on you, in a science of which you are so great a master. In short, I will be doctor'd with you, or not at all. I am sure, wherever honour is not conferred on the deserving, there can be none given to the undeserving; no more from the hands of Priests, than of Princes. Adieu. God give you all *true blessings.*

LETTER CVIII.

Sept. 20, 1741.

IT is not my friendship, but the discernment of that nobleman^a I mentioned, which you are to thank for his intention to serve you. And his judgment is so uncontroverted, that it would really be a pleasure to you to owe him any thing; instead of a shame, which often is the case in the favours of men of that rank. I am sorry I can only wish you well, and not do myself honour in doing you any good. But I

such an answer was returned as so civil a message deserved. About this time, Mr. Pope had the same offer made him of a Doctor's de-

gree in Law. And to the issue of that unasked and unsought compliment these words allude.

^a Lord Chesterfield.

comfort

comfort myself when I reflect, few men could make you happier, none more deserving than you have made yourself.

I don't know how I have been betray'd into a paragraph of this kind. I ask your pardon, tho' it be truth, for saying so much.—

If I can prevail on myself to complete^b the Dunciad, it will be published at the same time with a general edition of all my Verses (for Poems I will not call them) and, I hope, your Friendship to me will be then as well known, as my being an Author; and go down together to Posterity. I mean to as much of Posterity as poor moderns can reach to; where the Commentator (as usual) will lend a crutch to the weak Poet to help him to limp a little further, than he could on his own feet. We shall take our degree together in Fame, whatever we do at the University: And I tell you once more^c, I will not have it there without you.—

^b He had then communicated his intention to the Editor, of adding a fourth book to it.

^c This was occasioned by the editor's requesting him not to slight the honour ready to be done him by the

University: and especially, not to decline it on the Editor's account, who had no reason to think the affront done him the act of that illustrious body, but the contrivance of two or three particulars.