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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

CXII. On the same, and the fourth book of the Dunciad.

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

FROM DR. SWIFT, etc. 349

be then alive, as yet he is) his old servant—
In that case I think to go with him, and if
it should be at a season when the waters are
beneficial (which agree particularly with him
too) would it be an impossibility to meet you
at Mr. Allen's? whose house, you know, and
heart are yours. Tho' this is a mere chance, I
should not be sorry you saw so great a genius,
tho' he and you were never to meet again.—
Adieu. The world is not what I wish it; but
I will not repent being in it while two or three
live.

I am, &c.

LETTER CXII.

Bath, Nov. 27, 1742.

THIS will shew you I am still with our
friend, but it is the last day; and I would
rather you heard of me pleased, as I yet am,
than chagrin'd as I shall be in a few hours. We
are both pretty well. I wish you had been
more explicite if your leg be quite well. You
say no more than that you got home well. I
expect a more particular account of you when
you have repos'd yourself a while at your own
fire-side. I shall inquire as soon as I am in
London,

I

London, which of my friends have seen you? There are two or three who knew how to value you: I wish I was as sure they would study to serve you.—A project has arisen in my head to make you, in some measure, the Editor of this new edition of the *Dunciad*^a, if you have no scruple of owning some of the graver notes, which are now added^b to those of Dr. Arbuthnot. I mean it as a kind of prelude, or advertisement to the public, of your Commentaries on the *Essays on Man*, and on *Criticism*, which I propose to print next in another volume proportioned to this. I only doubt whether an avowal of these notes to so ludicrous a poem be suitable to a character so established as yours for more serious studies. It was a sudden thought since we parted; and I would have you treat it as no more; and tell me if it is not better to be suppress'd; freely and friendlily. I have a particular reason to make you interest yourself in me and my writings. It will cause both them and me to make the better figure to posterity. A very mediocre poet, one Drayton, is yet taken some notice of, because SELDEN writ a few notes on one of his poems.—

^a That is, of the four books complete. | books, and distinguished in this edition of his works.

^b Added in the three first

Adieu.

FROM DR. SWIFT, etc. 351

Adieu. May every domestic happiness make you unwilling to remove from home; and may every friend, you do that kindness for, treat you so as to make you forget you are not at home.

I am, &c.

LETTER CXIII.

Dec. 28, 1742.

I Have always so many things to take kindly of you, that I don't know which to begin to thank you for. I was willing to conclude our whole account of the *Dunciad*, at least, and therefore staid till it was finished. The encouragement you gave me to add the fourth book first determined me to do so; and the approbation you seem'd to give it was what singly determined me to print it. Since that, your Notes and your Discourse in the name of Aristarchus have given its last finishings and ornaments.—I am glad you will refresh the *memory* of such readers as have no other faculty to be readers, especially of such works as the *Divine Legation*. But I hope you will not take too much notice of another and duller sort; those who become writers thro' malice, and must die whenever you please to shine out in
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