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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

CXIV. On a noble Lord, who made professions of service.

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FROM DR. SWIFT, etc. 353

My Law-suit with L. is at an end.—Adieu!
Believe no man can be more yours. Call me
by any title you will but a *Doctor of Oxford*;
Sit tibi cura mei, sit tibi cura tui.

LETTER CXIV.

Jan. 18, 1742.

I Am forced to grow every day more laconic
in my letters, for my eyesight grows every
day shorter and dimmer. Forgive me then that
I answer you summarily. I can even less bear an
equal part in a correspondence than in a conver-
sation with you. But be assured once for all, the
more I read of you, as the more I hear from you,
the better I am instructed and pleased. And
this misfortune of my own dulness, and my own
absence, only quickens my ardent wish that
some good fortune would draw you nearer, and
enable me to enjoy both, for a greater part of our
lives in this neighbourhood; and in such a situa-
tion, as might make more beneficial friends, than
I, esteem and enjoy you equally.—I have again
heard from Lord * * and another hand, that
the Lord I writ to you of, declares an intention
to serve you. My answer (which they re-
lated to him) was, that he would be sure of
your acquaintance for life, if once he served,

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or

or obliged you ; but that, I was certain, you would never trouble him with your expectation, tho' he would never get rid of your gratitude. —Dear Sir, adieu, and let me be sometimes certified of your health. My own is as usual ; and my affection the same, always yours.

L E T T E R XIX.

Twitenham, March 24, 1743.

I Write to you amongst the very few I now desire to have my Friends, merely, *Si valeas, valeo*. 'Tis in effect all I say : but it is very literally true, for I place all that makes my life desirable in their welfare. I may truly affirm, that vanity or interest have not the least share in any friendship I have ; or cause me now to cultivate that of any one man by any one letter. But if any motive should draw me to flatter a great man, it would be to save the friend I would have him serve from doing it. Rather than lay a deserving person under the necessity of it, I would hazard my own character and keep his in dignity. Tho', in truth, I live in a time when no measures of conduct influence the success of one's applications, and the best thing to trust to is chance and opportunity.

I only