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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

Containing His Moral Essays

Pope, Alexander

London, 1751

Roman Satirists, Lucilius, Horace, Persius, Juvenal

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P A R T III.

THRO' Ages thus hath SATIRE keenly shin'd,
The Friend to Truth, to Virtue, and Man-
kind :

Yet the bright flame from Virtue ne'er had sprung,
And Man was guilty ere the Poet sung. 360

This Muse in silence joy'd each better Age,

Till glowing crimes had wak'd her into rage.

Truth saw her honest spleen with new delight,

And bade her wing her shafts, and urge their flight.

First on the Sons of *Greece* she prov'd her art, 365

And *Sparta* felt the fierce IAMBICK dart^a.

To LATIUM next, avenging SATIRE flew:

The flaming faulchion rough LUCILIUS^b drew;

With dauntless warmth in Virtue's cause engag'd,

And conscious Villains trembled as he rag'd. 370

NOTES.

^a Archilocum proprio rabies armavit Iambo. HOR.

^b Ense velut stricto quoties Lucilius ardens
Infremuit, rubet auditor cui frigida mens est
Criminibus, tacita sudant præcordia culpa. JUV. S. i.

Then sportive HORACE^c caught the gen'rous fire,
 For SATIRE's bow resign'd the founding lyre :
 Each arrow polish'd in his hand was seen,
 And, as it grew more polish'd, grew more keen.
 His art, conceal'd in study'd negligence, 375
 Politely fly, cajol'd the foes of sense :
 He seem'd to sport and trifle with the dart,
 But while he sported, drove it to the heart.

In graver strains majestick PERSIUS wrote,
 Big with a ripe exuberance of thought : 380
 Greatly sedate, contemn'd a Tyrant's reign,
 And lash'd corruption with a calm disdain.

More ardent eloquence, and boundless rage,
 In flame bold JUVENAL's exalted page,
 His mighty numbers aw'd corrupted *Rome*, 385
 And swept audacious Greatness to its doom ;
 The headlong torrent thund'ring from on high,
 Rent the proud rock that lately brav'd the sky.

NOTES.

^c Omne vafer vitium ridenti Flaccus amico
 Tangit, et admissus circum præcordia ludit,
 Callidus excusso populum suspendere naso. PERS. S. i.