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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

Donne

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-55032](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-55032)

'Twas then plain *DONNE* in honest vengeance rose,
 His Wit harmonious, tho' his Rhyme was prose:
 He 'midst an Age of Puns and Pedants wrote
 With genuine sense, and *Roman* strength of thought.

Yet scarce had *SATIRE* well relum'd her flame,
 (With grief the Muse records her Country's shame)
 Ere *Britain* saw the foul revolt commence,
 And treach'rous Wit began her war with Sense.
 Then rose a shameless mercenary train,
 Whom latest Time shall view with just disdain:
 A race fantastick, in whose gaudy line 421
 Untutor'd thought, and tinsel beauty shine;
 Wit's shatter'd Mirror lies in fragments bright,
 Reflects not Nature, but confounds the sight.
 Dry Morals the Court-Poet blush'd to sing: 425
 'Twas all his praise to say, "*the oddest thing.*"
 Proud for a jest obscene, a Patron's nod,
 To martyr Virtue, or blaspheme his God.

Ill-fated *DRYDEN*! who unmov'd can see 429
 Th' extremes of wit and meanness join'd in Thee!