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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**

The Abuse of Satire in England, during the licentious Reign of Charles II.

[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!