



## **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 Second of his Letters

**Pope, Alexander**

**London, 1751**

Letter I. From the Bishop of Rochester, Concerning Mr. Pope's general preface to his works.

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**Nutzungsbedingungen**

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# LETTERS

TO AND FROM

Dr. ATTERBURY,  
Bishop of ROCHESTER.

From 1716 to 1723.

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## LETTER I.

The Bishop of ROCHESTER to Mr. POPE.

Decemb. 1716.

**I** Return your <sup>a</sup> Preface, which I have read twice with pleasure. The modesty and good sense there is in it, must please every one that reads it: And since there is nothing that can offend, I see not why you should balance a moment about printing it—always provided, that there is nothing said there which you may have occasion to unsay hereafter: of which

<sup>a</sup> The General Preface to Mr. Pope's Poems, first printed 1717, the year after the date of this letter. P.

FROM DR. ATTERBURY. 81

you yourself are the best and the only judge. This is my sincere opinion, which I give, because you ask it : and which I would not give, tho' ask'd, but to a man I value as much as I do you ; being sensible how improper it is, on many accounts, for me to interpose in things of this nature ; which I never understood well, and now understand somewhat less than ever I did. But I can deny you nothing ; especially since you have had the goodness often, and patiently, to hear what I have said against rhyme, and in behalf of blank verse ; with little discretion perhaps, but, I am sure, without the least prejudice : being myself equally incapable of writing well in either of those ways, and leaning therefore to neither side of the question, but as the appearance of reason inclines me. Forgive me this error, if it be one ; an error of above thirty years standing, and which therefore I shall be very loth to part with. In other matters which relate to polite writing, I shall seldom differ from you : or, if I do, shall, I hope, have the prudence to conceal my opinion. I am as much as I ought to be, that is, as much as any man can be,

Your, &c.