



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

VII. To Mr. Gay at Bath; the commitment of the Bishop of Rochester to the Tower.

Nutzungsbedingungen

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LETTER VII.

DEAR GAY,

Sept. 11, 1722.

I Thank you for remembering me; I would do my best to forget myself, but that, I find, your idea is so closely connected to me, that I must forget both together, or neither. I am sorry I could not have a glympse either of you, or of the Sun (your father) before you went for Bath: But now it pleases me to see him, and hear of you. Pray put Mr. Congreve in mind that he has one on this side of the world who loves him; and that there are more men and women in the universe than Mr. Gay and my Lady Duchefs. There are ladies in and about Richmond, that pretend to value him and yourself; and one of them at least may be thought to do it without affectation, namely Mrs. Howard.

Pray consult with Dr. Arbuthnot and Dr. Chene, to what exact pitch your belly may be suffer'd to swell, not to outgrow theirs, who are, yet, your betters. Tell Dr. Arbuthnot

Live well, and fear no sudden fate;
 When God calls Virtue to the grave,
 Alike 'tis justice soon or late,
 Mercy alike to kill or save.

Virtue unmov'd can hear the call,
 And face the flash that melts the ball.

that

that even pigeon-pyes and hogs-puddings are thought dangerous by our governors ; for those that have been sent to the Bishop of Rochester are open'd and prophanely pry'd into at the Tower : 'Tis the first time dead pigeons have been suspected of carrying intelligence. To be serious, you and Mr. Congreve and the Doctor will be sensible of my concern and surprize at his commitment, whose welfare is as much my concern as any friend's I have. I think myself a most unfortunate wretch : I no sooner love, and, upon knowledge, fix my esteem to any man ; but he either dies, like Mr. Craggs, or is sent to imprisonment like the Bishop. God send him as well as I wish him, manifest him to be as innocent as I believe him, and make all his enemies know him as well as I do, that they may think of him as well !

If you apprehend this period to be of any danger in being address'd to you, tell Mr. Congreve or the Doctor, it is writ to them. I am,
Your, &c.

 L E T T E R VIII.

July 13, 1722.

I Was very much pleas'd, not to say obliged, by your kind letter, which sufficiently warm'd my heart to have answer'd it sooner,
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