

## 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 Satires &c.

Pope, Alexander London, 1751

The First Boo	k of the	Epistles of	of Horace,	Ep. I	
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Nutzungsbedingungen

urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-56609

THE

## FIRST EPISTLE

OFTHE

# FIRST BOOK

OF

# HORACE.

Vol. IV. \*H2

## EPISTOLA I.

PRIMA dicte mihi, fumma dicende camena,

b Spectatum fatis, et donatum jam rude, quaeris,

Maecenas, iterum antiquo me includere ludo.

Non eadem est aetas, non mens. c Veianius, armis

d Herculis ad postem fixis, latet abditus agro;

Ne populum c extrema toties exoret arena.

Fest mihi purgatam crebro qui personet aurem;

Solve g senescentem mature sanus equum, ne

Peccet ad extremum ridendus, et ilia ducat.

### NOTES.

VER. 3. Sabbath of my days?] i. e. The 49th year, the age of the Author.

VER. 8. Hang their old Trophies o'er the Garden gates,] An

# EPISTLE I.

## To L. BOLINGBROKE.

St. John, whose love indulg'd my labours past,
Matures my present, and shall bound my last!
Why be will you break the Sabbath of my days?
Now sick alike of Envy and of Praise.
Public too long, ah let me hide my Age!
See Modest colbber now has lest the Stage:
Our Gen'rals now, deretir'd to their Estates,
Hang their old Trophies o'er the Garden gates,
In Life's cool Ev'ning satiate of Applause,
Nor fond of bleeding, ev'n in Brunswick's cause.

f A Voice there is, that whispers in my ear, 11 ('Tis Reason's voice, which sometimes one can hear)
"Friend Pope! be prudent, let your g Muse take
"breath,

" And never gallop Pegasus to death;

## NOTES.

occasional stroke of Satire on ill-placed ornaments. He has more openly ridiculed them in his Epistle on Taste.

" Load some vain Church with old theatric state,

VER. 10. ev'n in Brunswick's cause.] In the former Editions it was, Britain's cause. But the terms are synonymous.

\* H 3

Nunc itaque et h versus, et caetera ludicra pono:

Quid ' verum atque decens, curo et rogo, et omnis in

k Condo, et compono, quae mox depromere possim.

Ac ne forte roges, 1 quo me duce, quo Lare tuter:

Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri,

m Quo me cunque rapit tempestas, deseror hospes.

Nunc agilis fio, et mersor " civilibus undis,

Virtutis verae custos, ° rigidusque satelles:

## NOTES.

VER. 16. You limp, like Blackmore on a Lord Mayor's horse.] The fame of this heavy Poet, however problematical elsewhere, was universally received in the City of London. His versification is here exactly described: stiff, and not strong; stately and yet dull, like the sober and slow-paced Animal generally employed to mount the Lord Mayor: and therefore here humourously opposed to Pegasus. P.

VER. 26. And house with Montagne now, and now with Locke, ] i. e. Chuse either an active or a contemplative life, as is

"Lest stiff, and stately, void of fire or force, 15

"You limp, like Blackmore on a Lord Mayor's "horse."

Farewell then h Verse, and Love, and ev'ry Toy,
The Rhymes and Rattles of the Man or Boy;
What i right, what true, what sit we justly call,
Let this be all my care — for this is All:

20
To lay this harvest up, and hoard with haste
What ev'ry day will want, and most, the last.

But ask not, to what Doctors I apply?

Sworn to no Master, of no Sect am I:

As drives the m storm, at any door I knock: 25

And house with Montagne now, or now with Locke.

Sometimes a Patriot, active in debate,

Mix with the World, and battle for the State,

Free as young Lyttelton, her Cause pursue,

Still true to Virtue, and as warm as true: 30

#### NOTES.

most fitted to the season and circumstances.—For he regarded these Writers as the best Schools to form a man for the world; or to give him a knowledge of himself: Montagne excelling in his observations on social and civil life; and Locke, in diveloping the faculties, and explaining the operations of the human mind.

VER. 30. Still true to Virtue—with Aristippus, or St. Paul,] It was the Poet's purpose in this place, to give us the picture of his own mind; not that of Horace's, who tells us, he sometimes went with Zeno, and sometimes with Aristippus; the \* H 4

Nunc in \* Aristippi p furtim praecepta relabor,

Et mihi res, non me rebus, subjungere conor.

<sup>q</sup> Ut nox longa, quibus mentitur amica; diesque

Lenta videtur opus debentibus: ut piger annus

Pupillis, quos dura premit custodia matrum:

Sic mihi tarda fluunt ingrataque tempora, quae spem

Consiliumque morantur agendi gnaviter id, quod

Aeque pauperibus prodest, locupletibus aeque,

Aeque neglectum pueris, senibusque nocebit.

\* Omnis Aristippum decuit color, et status, et res. P.

### NOTES.

extremes of whose different systems Tully thus justly censures: 56 Ut quoniam Aristippus, quasi animum nullum habeamus, corpus folum tuetur; Zeno, quafi corporis fimus expertes, anier mum folum complectitur." But neither truth nor decency would fuffer our Poet to fay, that, to fuit himself to the times, he went into either of these follies. To shew us, therefore, he took no more from the Stoics than their fincerity and warmth for the interests of Virtue, he compares himself to a friend, in whom he observed that warmth. And by joining St. Paul with Aristippus he would infinuate, that he took no more from the Cyrenaic fect than a charitable compliance to occasions, for the benefit of his neighbour. Thus in ferving himfelf of his friend to temper the rigidity of one feet of philosophy, while the Apoftle is employed to rectify the loofeness of the other, he brings Mr. Lyttelton and St. Paul acquainted; for those who correct opposite extremes must needs meet; and so we see the Patriot

Sometimes with Aristippus, or St. Paul, Indulge my candor, and grow all to all; Back to my pative Moderation slide, And win my way by yielding to the tide.

<sup>4</sup> Long, as to him who works for debt, the day, Long as the Night to her whose Love's away, 36 Long as the Year's dull circle seems to run, When the brisk Minor pants for twenty-one:

So slow th' unprofitable moments roll,

That lock up all the Functions of my soul; 40

That keep me from myself; and still delay

Life's instant business to a future day:

That task, which as we follow, or despise,

The eldest is a fool, the youngest wife.

#### NOTES.

in a new point of view; which is, in a virtuous accommodation of himfelf to feafons and circumstances.

VER. 32. Indulge my candor—Back to my native Moderation slide] An honest and useful infinuation, that, tho' Parties in the State prosecute their ends on never so true principles, and with never so good intentions, yet opposition is apt to make the most scrupulous Leaders of them sometimes violate both candor and moderation. However, by the expression, of indulging his candor, he would infinuate too, that, when he allowed the least to it, he never violated Truth; and, by sliding back to his native moderation, that he always kept within the bounds of Reason.—But the general Sense of the whole passage is, that when he went with the Stoics, who advise a public life, the character of his civil virtue was rigid; when he went with the Cyrenaics, who encourage a private, that of his social was indulgent.

\* Restat, ut his ego me ipse regam \* solerque elementis:

W Non possis oculo quantum contendere Lynceus;
Non tamen idcirco contemnas lippus inungi:
Nec, quia desperes invicti membra Glyconis,
Nodosa corpus nolis prohibere cheragra.
Est quadam prodire x tenus, si non datur ultra.

Y Fervet Avaritia, miseroque cupidine pectus?

Sunt verba et voces, quibus hunc lenire dolorem

Possis, et <sup>2</sup> magnam morbi deponere partem.

Laudis amore tumes? sunt <sup>2</sup> certa piacula, quae te

Ter pure lecto poterunt recreare libello.

## NOTES

VER. 45. can no wants endure, ] i. e. Can want nothing. Badly expressed.

VER. 51. I'll do what Mead—] Mr. Pope highly esteemed and loved this worthy man, whose unaffected humanity and benevolence have stifled much of that envy which his eminence in his profession would otherwise have drawn out. Speaking of his obligations to this great Physician and others of the Faculty, in a Letter to Mr. Allen, about a month before his death, he says, "There is no end of my kind treatment from the Faculty. They are in general the most amiable compa-

Which done, the poorest can no wants endure; 45 And which not done, the richest must be poor.

Late as it is, I put myself to school,
And seel some comfort, not to be a fool.

Weak tho' I am of limb, and short of sight,
Far from a Lynx, and not a Giant quite;
50
I'll do what Mead and Cheselden advise,
To keep these limbs, and to preserve these eyes.

Not to go back, is somewhat to advance,
And men must walk at least before they dance.

Say, does thy blood rebel, thy bosom move 55 With wretched Av'rice, or as wretched Love?

Know, there are Words, and Spells, which can con-

Between the Fits this Fever of the foul:

Know, there are Rhymes, which a fresh and fresh apply'd

Will cure the arrant'st Puppy of his Pride. 60

#### NOTES.

"nions, and the best friends, as well as the most learned Men "I know."

VER. 58. Between the fits—] The fense of magnam morbi deponere partem here very happily expressed. And

is here very happily expressed. And Ter pure letto etc.

in the following line, as happily varied. But the whole passage, which describes the use and essicacy of satire, is admirably imitated.

b Invidus, iracundus, iners, vinosus, camator,
Nemo dadeo ferus est, ut non mitescere possit,
Si modo culturae patientem commodet aurem.

e Virtus est, vitium fugere; et sapientia prima,

Stultitia caruisse. vides, quae f maxima credis

Esse mala, exiguum censum, turpemque repulsam,

Quanto devites animi, capitisque labore.

Impiger extremos curris mercator ad Indos,

Per s mare pauperiem sugiens, per saxa, per ignes:

Ne cures h ea, quae stulte miraris et optas,

Discere, et audire, et meliori credere non vis?

Quis circum pagos et circum compita pugnax

Magna coronari contemnat Olympia, cui spes,

Cui sit conditio dulcis sine pulvere palmae?

" Vilius est auro argentum, virtutibus aurum.

## NOTES.

VER. 70. Scar'd at the spectre of pale Poverty!] Tho' this has all the spirit, it has not all the imagery of the Original; where Horace makes Poverty pursue, and keep pace with the Miser in his flight.

Per mare Pauperiem fugiens, per saxa, per ignes. But what follows,

Wilt thou do nothing, etc. far furpasses the Original.

Be b furious, envious, flothful, mad, or drunk, c Slave to a Wife, or Vassal to a Punk, A Switz, a High-dutch, or a Low-dutch a Bear; All that we ask is but a patient Ear.

and the first Virtue, Vices to abhor; 65
And the first Wisdom, to be Fool no more.
But to the world no bugbear is so great,
As want of figure, and a small Estate.
To either India see the Merchant sly,
Scar'd at the spectre of pale Poverty!

70
See him, with pains of body, pangs of soul,
Burn through the Tropic, freeze beneath the Pole!
Wilt thou do nothing for a nobler end,
Nothing, to make Philosophy thy friend?
To stop thy soolish views, thy long desires,
And ease thy heart of all that it admires?
Here, Wisdom calls: "Seek Virtue first, be bold!
"As Gold to Silver, Virtue is to Gold."

#### NOTES.

VER. 77. Here Wisdom calls: etc.] All from hence to \$110, is a pretty close translation: but in general done with so masterly a spirit, that the Original, tho' one of the most finished passages in Horace, looks only like the imitation of it.

VER. 78. As Gold to Silver, Virtue is to Gold.] This perhaps is the most faulty line in the whole collection. The Original is,

Vilius est auro argentum, virtutibus aurum. which only says, that as Silver is of less value than Gold, so Gold

" k O cives, cives! quaerenda pecunia primum est;

Virtus post nummos: haec 1 Janus summus ab imo

Prodocet: haec recinunt juvenes dictata senesque,

m Laevo suspensi loculos tabulamque lacerto.

Est " animus tibi, sunt mores, est lingua, fidesque:

Sed quadringentis sex septem millia defint,

Plebs eris. Pat pueri ludentes, Rex eris, aiunt,

### NOTES.

is of less value than Virtue : in which simple inferiority, and not the proportion of it, is implied. For it was as contrary to the Author's purpose, as it is to common sense, to suppose, that Virtue was but just as much better than gold, as gold is better than filver. Yet Mr. Pope, too attentive to his constant object, conciseness, has, before he was aware, fallen into this meaning. However this, and many other inaccuracies in his works, had been corrected had he lived; as many, that now first appear in this Edition, were actually corrected a little before his death.

And here I cannot but do justice to one of his many good qualities, a very rare one indeed, and what none but a truly great genius can attend to indulge; I mean his extreme readiness, and unfeigned pleasure, in acknowledging his mistakes: this, with an impatience to reform them, he possessed in a greater degree, and with less affectation than any Man I ever

knew.

Ep. I.

There, London's voice: k "Get Money, Money still!

"And then let Virtue follow, if she will." 80

This, this the saving doctrine, preach'd to all,

From 1 low St. James's up to high St. Paul;

From him whose m quills stand quiver'd at his ear,

To him who notches sticks at Westminster.

Barnard in <sup>n</sup> spirit, sense, and truth abounds; 85 "Pray then, what wants he?" Fourscore thousand pounds;

A Pension, or such Harness for a slave

As Bug now has, and Dorimant would have.

Barnard, thou art a ° Cit, with all thy worth;

But Bug and D \*1, Their Honours, and so forth. 90

Yet ev'ry p child another song will sing,

"Virtue, brave boys! 'tis Virtue makes a King."

#### NOTES.

VER. 82. From low St. James's up to high St. Paul, ] i. e. This is a doctrine in which both Whigs and Tories agree.

VER. 83. From him whose quills stand quiver'd at his ear,] They who do not take the delicacy of this satire, may think the figure of standing quiver'd, extremely hard and quaint; but it has an exquisite beauty, infinuating that the pen of a Scrivener is as ready as the quill of a porcupine, and as satal as the shafts of a Parthian.—Quiver'd at his ear, which describes the position it is usually sound in, alludes to the custom of the American canibals, who make use of their hair (tied in a knot on the top of their heads) for a quiver for their poison'd arrows.

VER. 84. notches flicks ] Exchequer Tallies.

VER. 85. Barnard in spirit, sense, and truth abounds, Sir John Barnard. It was the Poet's purpose to say, that this great man (who does so much honour to his Country) had a fine ge-

Si recte facies. Hic 9 murus abeneus esto,

Nil conscire sibi, nulla pallescere culpa.

Roscia, dic sodes, melior lex, an puerorum est

Naenia, quae regnum recte facientibus offert,

Et maribus & Curiis et decantata Camillis?

t Isne tibi melius suadet, qui, "Rem facias; rem,

" Si possis, recte; si non, quocunque modo rem."

Ut v propius spectes lacrymosa poemata Pupi!

An, w qui fortunae te responsare superbae

Liberum et erectum, \* praesens hortatur et aptat?

#### NOTES.

nius, improved and put in use by a true understanding; and both, under the guidance of an integrity superior to all the temptations of interest, honours, or any meaner passion. Many events, since the paying this tribute to his virtue, have shewn how much, and how particularly it was due to him.

VER. 95. Be this thy Screen, and this thy Wall of Brass;]
Hic murus aheneus esto.

Dacier laughs at an able Critic, who was scandalized, that the antient Scholiasts had not explained what Horace meant by a wall of brass; for, says Dacier, "Chacun se fait des difficultez

## Ep. I. OF HORACE.

113

True, conscious Honour is to feel no sin,
He's arm'd without that's innocent within;
Be this thy Screen, and this thy Wall of Brass; 95
Compar'd to this, a Minister's an Ass.

This new Court jargon, or the good old fong?
The modern language of corrupted Peers,
Or what was spoke at Cressy and Poitiers?
Who counsels best? who whispers, "Be but great,
"With Praise or Infamy leave that to fate; 102
"Get Place and Wealth, if possible, with grace;
"If not, by any means get Wealth and Place.
For what? to have a Box where Eunuchs sing,
And foremost in the Circle eye a King. 106
Or he, who bids thee face with steddy view
Proud Fortune, and look shallow Greatness thro':
And, while he bids thee, sets th' Example too?

## NOTES.

" à sa mode, & demande des remarques proportionnées à son goût:" he then sets himself in good earnest about this important inquiry; and, by a passage in Vegetius, luckily discovers, that it signified an old veteran armed cap-a-pie in brass, and PLACED TO COVER HIS FELLOW. Our Poet has happily served himself of this impertinence to convey a very fine stroke of satire.

VER. 97. And fay, etc.] These four lines greatly superior to any thing in the Original.

y Quod si me Populus Romanus forte roget, cur

Non, ut 2 porticibus, sic judiciis fruar iisdem,

Nec sequar aut fugiam, quae diligit ipse vel odit;

Olim quod a vulpes aegroto cauta leoni

Respondit, referam: Quia me vestigia terrent

Omnia te adversum spectantia, nulla retrorsum.

Bellua multorum es capitum. nam quid fequar, aut quem?

Pars hominum gestit conducere publica: sunt qui

#### NOTES.

VER. 117. Full many a Beast goes in, ] This expression is used for the joke's fake; but it hurts his moral; which is, that they come out beasts. He should here have stuck to the terms of

his Original, vestigia omnia te adversum spectantia.

VER. 118. Adieu to Virtue, etc.] These two lines are intended for the application or moral of a fable, which needs no explaining; and, consequently, they impair the grace of it, which at best is inferior to his Original. For Horace speaks of the common people, Populus Romanus, to whom one of Æsop's Fables was properly addreffed: too fimple a method of conveying truth to the well-drest Rabble of St. James's.

If y fuch a Doctrine, in St. James's air,
Shou'd chance to make the well-drest Rabble stare;
If honest S\*z take scandal at a Spark,
That less admires the 2 Palace than the Park:
Faith I shall give the answer 3 Reynard gave:
"I cannot like, dread Sir, your Royal Cave: 115
"Because I see, by all the tracks about,
"Full many a Beast goes in, but none come out."
Adieu to Virtue, if you're once a Slave:
Send her to Court, you send her to her grave.

Well, if a King's a Lion, at the least

The b People are a many-headed Beast:

Can they direct what measures to pursue,

Who know themselves so little what to do?

Alike in nothing but one Lust of Gold,

Just half the land would buy, and half be sold: 125

Their country's wealth our mightier Misers drain,

Or cross, to plunder Provinces, the Main;

#### NOTES.

VER. 124. Alike in nothing but one Lust of Gold, Just half the land would buy, and half be sold: Here the argument suffers a little for the sake of the satire. The reason why the People should not be followed is because

Bellua multorum est capitum. nam quid sequar, aut quem? they are so divers in their pursuits (says Horace) that one cannot follow this man without being condemned by that. The imitator says, they all go on one common principle, the lust of gold. This inaccuracy, tho' Horace has a little of it, yet he has however artfully disguised it, by speaking of the various ob-

d Crustis et pomis viduas venentur avaras,

Excipiantque senes, quos in vivaria mittant:

e Multis occulto crescit res senore. f verum

Esto, aliis alios rebus studiisque teneri:

Iidem eadem possunt horam durare probantes?

8 Nullus in orbe finus Baiis praelucet amoenis,

Si dixit dives; h lacus et mare sentit amorem

Festinantis heri: cui si i vitiosa libido

Fecerit auspicium; cras ferramenta Teanum

#### NOTES.

jects of this one Passion, avarice, as of so many various passions, Pars hominum gestit conducere publica: sunt qui, etc. Crustis et pomis

Multis occulto, etc.

but his imitator has unwarily drawn them to a point, by the introductory addition of the two lines above,

Alike in nothing, etc.

VER. 126. Their Country's wealth our mightier Misers drain,]

The undertakers for advancing Loans to the Public on the Funds.

The rest, some farm the Poor-box, some the Pews; Some keep Assemblies, and would keep the Stews; Some d with fat Bucks on childless Dotards fawn; Some win rich Widows by their Chine and Brawn; While with the silent growth of ten per cent, In dirt and darkness, hundreds stink content.

Of all these ways, if each f pursues his own,
Satire be kind, and let the wretch alone:

135
But show me one who has it in his pow'r
To act consistent with himself an hour.

Sir Job s fail'd forth, the ev'ning bright and still,

"No place on earth (he cry'd) like Greenwich hill!"

h Up starts a Palace, lo, th' obedient base

140
Slopes at its foot, the woods its sides embrace,
The silver Thames reslects its marble sace.

Now let some whimsy, or that Dev'l within

Which guides all those who know not what they
mean,

NOTES.

But give the Knight (or give his Lady) spleen;

They have been commonly accused of making it a job. But in so corrupt times, the fault is not always to be imputed to a Ministry: it having been sound, on trial, that the wisest and most virtuous citizen of this or any other age, with every requisite knowledge in such matters, and supported by all the weight an honest Administration could afford him, was, they say, unable to abolish this inveterate mystery of iniquity.

VER. 143. Now let some whimsy, etc.] This is very spirited,

Tolletis, fabri. k lectus genialis in aula est?

Nil ait esse prius, melius nil coelibe vita:

<sup>1</sup> Si non est, jurat bene solis esse maritis.

m Quo teneam vultus mutantem Protea nodo?

Quid " pauper? ride: mutat ° coenacula, lectos,

Balnea, Ptonsores; conducto navigio aeque

Nauseat, ac locuples quem ducit priva triremis.

<sup>q</sup> Si curatus inaequali tonfore capillos

Occurro; rides. fi forte subucula pexae

Trita subest tunicae, vel si toga dissidet impar;

Rides. quid, r mea Cum pugnat sententia secum;

Quod petiit, spernit; repetit quod nuper omisit;

NOTES.

but much inferior to the elegance of the original,

Cui si vitiosa Libido

Fecerit auspicium
which no modern imitation can reach.

VER. 155. They change their weekly Barber, etc.] These fix

" Away, away! take all your scaffolds down,

"For Snug's the word: My dear !we'll live in Town."

At am'rous Flavio is the k stocken thrown?

That very night he longs to lie alone.

1 The Fool, whose Wife elopes some thrice a quarter,

For matrimonial folace dies a martyr. 151

Did ever m Proteus, Merlin, any witch,
Transform themselves so strangely as the Rich?

Well, but the Poor-The Poor have the same itch;

They change their o weekly Barber, weekly News,

Prefer a new Japanner, to their shoes, 156

Discharge their Garrets, move their beds, and run

(They know not whither) in a Chaife and one;

They p hire their sculler, and when once aboard,

Grow fick, and damn the climate—like a Lord. 160

<sup>9</sup> You laugh, half Beau, half Sloven if I stand, My wig all powder, and all snuff my band; You laugh, if coat and breeches strangely vary, White gloves, and linen worthy Lady Mary! But when 'no Prelate's Lawn with hair-shirt lin'd, Is half so incoherent as my Mind,

### NOTES.

lines much more spirited than the original. In Horace, the People's constancy of temper is satirized only in a simple expo-Vol. IV. \* I 4

## 120 IMITATIONS Book I.

- <sup>5</sup> Aestuat, et vitae disconvenit ordine toto;
- <sup>t</sup> Diruit, aedificat, mutat quadrata rotundis?
- Infanire putas folennia me, neque rides,

Nec w medici credis, nec curatoris egere

A praetore dati; rerum \* tutela mearum

Cum sis, et prave sectum stomacheris ob unguem,

De te pendentis, te respicientis amici.

Ad summam, sapiens uno y minor est Jove, dives,

<sup>2</sup> Liber, <sup>a</sup> honoratus, <sup>b</sup> pulcher, <sup>c</sup>rex denique regum;

Praecipue sanus, e nisi cum pituita molesta est.

## NOTES.

fure of the case. Here the ridicule on the folly is heightened by an humourous representation of each circumstance that is the object of it.

VER. 182. when plunder'd] i. e. By the Public; which has