



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

On receiving from the Right Honourable the Lady Frances Shirley, a standish and two pens

Nutzungsbedingungen

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Receiving from the Right Hon. the Lady

FRANCES SHIRLEY

A STANDISH and Two PENS.

Y ES, I beheld th'Athenian Queen
Descend in all her sober charms ;

“ And take (she said, and smil'd serene)

“ Take at this hand celestial arms :

“ Secure the radiant weapons wield ;

“ This golden lance shall guard Desert,

“ And if a Vice dares keep the field,

“ This steel shall stab it to the heart.”

Aw'd, on my bended knees I fell,

Receiv'd the weapons of the sky ;

And dipt them in the fable Well,

The fount of Fame or Infamy.

The Lady Frances Shirley] a Lady whose great Merit Mr.
Pope took a real pleasure in celebrating.

“ What *well*? what *weapon*? (Flavia cries)

“ A standish, steel and golden pen ;

“ It came from Bertrand's^a, not the skies ;

“ I gave it you to write again.

“ But, Friend, take heed whom you attack ;

“ You'll bring a House (I mean of Peers)

“ Red, Blue, and Green, nay white and black,

“ L----- and all about your ears.

“ You'd write as smooth again on glass,

“ And run, on ivory, so glib,

“ As not to stick at fool or ass^b,

“ Nor stop at Flattery or Fib^c.

“ *Athenian Queen!* and *sober charms!*

“ I tell ye, fool, there's nothing in't :

“ 'Tis Venus, Venus gives these arms ;

“ In Dryden's Virgil see the print^e.

NOTES.

^a A famous toy-shop at Bath.

^b The *Dunciad*.

^c The *Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*.

^d Such toys being the usual presents from lovers to their mistresses.

^e When she delivers Æneas a suit of heavenly armour.

“ Come, if you'll be a quiet soul,
“ That dares tell neither Truth nor Lies ^f,
“ I'll list you in the harmless roll
“ Of those that sing of these poor eyes.”

NOTES.

^f i. e. If you have neither the courage to write *Satire*, nor the application to attempt an *Epic* poem. — He was then meditating on such a work.



