



## **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 Miscellaneous Pieces In Verse and Prose

**Pope, Alexander**

**London, 1751**

A prologue to a play for Mr. Dennis's benefit in 1733, when he was old, blind, and in great distress, a little before his death

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**Nutzungsbedingungen**

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A

# P R O L O G U E

By Mr. P O P E,

To a Play for Mr. DENNIS's Benefit, in  
1733, when he was old, blind, and  
in great Distress, a little before his  
Death.

**A**S when that Hero, who in each Campaign,  
Had brav'd the *Goth*, and many a *Vandal*  
slain,

Lay Fortune-struck, a spectacle of Woe!

Wept by each Friend, forgiv'n by ev'ry Foe:

Was there a gen'rous, a reflecting mind, 5

## NOTES.

VER. 6. *But pitied Belisarius, etc.*] Nothing was ever more happily imagined than this allusion, or finelier conducted. And the continued pleasantry so delicately touched, that it took nothing from the self satisfaction the Critic had in his merit, or the Audience in their charity. With so much mastery has the Poet executed, in this benevolent irony, that which he supposed Dennis himself, had he the wit to see, would have the ingenuity own:

*This dreaded Sat'rist, Dennis will confess,  
Foe to his pride, but Friend to his Distress.*

But pitied BELISARIUS old and blind?  
 Was there a Chief but melted at the Sight?  
 A common Soldier, but who clubb'd his Mite?  
 Such, such emotions should in Britons rise, 9  
 When press'd by want and weakness DENNIS lies;  
*Dennis*, who long had warr'd with modern *Huns*,  
 Their Quibbles routed, and defy'd their Puns;  
 A desp'rate *Bulwark*, sturdy, firm, and fierce  
 Against the *Gothic* Sons of frozen verse:  
 How chang'd from him who made the boxes  
     groan, 15  
 And shook the stage with Thunders all his own!  
 Stood up to dash each vain PRETENDER's hope,  
 Maul the French Tyrant, or pull down the POPE!  
 If there's a *Briton* then, true bred and born, 19  
 Who holds Dragoons and wooden shoes in scorn;

## NOTES.

VER. 7. *Was there a Chief, etc.*] The fine figure of the Commander in that capital Picture of Belisarius at Chiswick, supplied the Poet with this beautiful idea.

VER. 12. *Their Quibbles routed, and defy'd their Puns;*] See *Dunciad*, Note on § 63. B. I.

VER. 13. *A desp'rate Bulwark, etc.*] See *Dunc.* Note on § 268. B. II.

VER. 16. *And shook the Stage with Thunders all his own!*] See *Dunc.* Note on § 226. B. II.

VER. 17. *Stood up to dash, etc.*] See *Dunc.* Note on § 173. B. III.

VER. 18. *Maul the French Tyrant—*] See *Dunc.* Note on § 413. B. II.

*Ibid.* or *pull down the POPE!*] See *Dunc.* Note on § 63. B. I.

68 MISCELLANIES.

If there's a Critic of distinguish'd rage;      21  
 If there's a Senior, who contemns this age;  
 Let him to night his just assistance lend,  
 And be the *Critic's*, *Briton's*, *Old Man's* Friend.

NOTES.

VER. 21. *If there's a critic of distinguish'd rage.*] See *Dun.*  
 Notes on y 106. B. I.