

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

Nutzungsbedingungen

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Was there a Chief but maked at the Sighter

PROLOGUE

By Mr. POPE,

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 flain,

Lay Fortune-struck, a spectacle of Woe!
Wept by each Friend, forgiv'n by ev'ry Foe:
Was there a gen'rous, a reslecting mind,

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, fuch emotions should in Britons rise,

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 sierce

Against the Gothic Sons of frozen verse:

How chang'd from him who made the boxes

groan,

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 Belifarius at Chifwick, 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 \$\frac{1}{2} 226. B. II.

VER. 17. Stood up to dash, etc.] See Dunc. Note on \$ 173.

VER. 18. Maul the French Tyrant—] See Dunc. Note on \$\day 413. B. II.

Ibid, or pull down the Pope!] See Dunc. Note on \$63. B. I. 1 F 2

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 affistance 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 Dune. Notes on y 106. B. I.

W. Tribiting in a Poet's fortune in the Pews

MEN messic Macer, now of high renown,

Twee all the Ambuton his high four could feel.

To wear red-florious, and to dide with New L.

bons: Hade Alivers his Betiers might afford . . .

And gave the harmfels fellow a good word.

And with a horrow d Play, outstid poor Const.

There he flored that her flace has well a till

But has the wit to make the most of little

Liberflugged hidesbrond Trees; that just have "int

beflevient fan at once to bear and rot

Now he begs Verfe, and what he gets continued

Not of the Wits his foes, buts ook his friends in

So fome coarle Country Wench, almost de con

Trudges to town, and first turns Chamberman,