



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

On his Grotto at Twickenham, composed of Marbles, Spars, Gems, Ores and Minerals

Nutzungsbedingungen

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On his GROTTO at Twickenham,

COMPOSED OF

Marbles, Spars, Gemms, Ores, and
Minerals.

THOU who shalt stop, where *Thames*' tran-
lucent wave
Shines a broad Mirrour thro' the shadowy Cave;
Where ling'ring drops from min'ral Roofs distill,
And pointed Crystals break the sparkling Rill,
Unpolish'd Gemms no ray on Pride bestow,
And latent Metals innocently glow :

VARIATIONS.

After γ 6. in the MS.

You see that Island's wealth, where, only free,
Earth to her entrails feels not Tyranny.

i. e. Britain is the only place on the globe which feels not Ty-
ranny even to its very entrails. Alluding to the condemnation
of Criminals to the Mines, one of the inflictions of civil justice
in most Countries. The thought was exceeding natural and
proper in this place, where the Poet was describing a Grotto in-
crusted and adorned with all sorts of Minerals collected from the
four quarters of the Globe.

NOTES.

On his Grotto.] The improving and finishing his Grott was
the favourite amusement of his declining Years; and the beauty
of his poetic genius, in the disposition and ornaments of this ro-
mantic recess, appears to as much advantage as in his best con-
trived Poems.

Approach. Great NATURE studiously behold!
 And eye the Mine without a wish for Gold.
 Approach: But awful! Lo! th' Ægerian Grott, 9
 Where, nobly-pensive, ST. JOHN fate and thought;
 Where *British* sighs from dying WYNDHAM stole
 And the bright flame was shot thro' MARCH-
 MONT'S Soul.

Let such, such only, tread this sacred Floor,
 Who dare to love their Country, and be poor.

VARIATIONS.

VER. II. *Where British sighs from dying Wyndham stole.*] In his MS. it was thus,

To Wyndham's breast the patriot-passions stole,
 which made the whole allude to a certain Anecdote of not much consequence to any but the parties concerned.

NOTES.

VER. 9. *Ægerian Grott,*] Alluding to Numa's projecting his system of Politics in this Grot, assisted, as he gave out, by the Goddess Ægeria.