



## **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 The First of his Letters

**Pope, Alexander**

**London, 1751**

X. From Mr. Wycherley. Of the correction of his Poem to Mr. Dryden, and other papers.

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**Nutzungsbedingungen**

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## LETTER X.

From Mr. WYCHERLEY.

Feb. 5, 1705-6.

I Have receiv'd your kind Letter, with my paper <sup>a</sup> to Mr. Dryden corrected. I own you have made more of it by making it less, as the Dutch are said to burn half the spices they bring home, to inhance the price of the remainder, so to be greater gainers by their loss, (which is indeed my case now.) You have prun'd my fading lawrels of some superfluous, sapless, and dead branches, to make the remainder live the longer; thus, like your master Apollo, you are at once a poet and a physician.

Now, Sir, as to my impudent invitation of you to the town, your good nature was the first cause of my confident request; but excuse me, I must (I see) say no more upon this subject, since I find you a little too nice to be dealt freely with; tho' you have given me some encouragement to hope, our friendship might be without shyness, or criminal modesty; for a

<sup>a</sup> The same which was printed in the Year 1717, in a Miscellany of Bern. | Lintot's, and in the Post-humous Works of Mr. Wycherley.

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friend,



friend, like a mistress, tho' he is not to be mercenary, to be true, yet ought not to refuse a friend's kindness because it is small or trivial: I have told you (I think) what a Spanish lady said to her poor poetical gallant, that a Queen if she had to do with a groom, would expect a mark of his kindness from him, though it were but his curry-comb. But you and I will dispute this matter when I am so happy as to see you here; and perhaps 'tis the only dispute in which I might hope to have the better of you.

Now, Sir, to make you another excuse for my boldness in inviting you to town, I design'd to leave with you some more of my papers, (since these return so much better out of your hands than they went from mine) for I intended (as I told you formerly) to spend a month, or six weeks this summer, near you in the country. You may be assured there is nothing I desire so much, as an improvement of your friendship.