



## **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**

XIV. From Mr. Wycherley.

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**Nutzungsbedingungen**

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FROM MR. WYCHERLEY. 31

out is, I believe, such as no body can be shock'd at. The repeated permissions you give me of dealing freely with you, will (I hope) excuse what I have done: for if I have not spar'd you when I thought severity would do you a kindness, I have not mangled you where I thought there was no absolute need of amputation. As to particulars, I can satisfy you better when we meet; in the mean time pray write to me when you can, you cannot too often.

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L E T T E R XIV.

From Mr. WYCHERLEY.

Nov. 22, 1707.

YOU may see by my style, I had the happiness and satisfaction to receive yesterday, by the hands of Mr. Englesyld, your extreme kind and obliging letter of the 20th of this month; which, like all the rest of yours, did at once mortify me, and make me vain; since it tells me with so much more wit, sense, and kindness than mine can express, that my letters

<i>Bias of a Bowl</i> , and the <i>Weights of a Clock</i> were at length put into the first book of the <i>Dunciad</i> . And thus we	have the history of their birth, fortunes, and final establishment.
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are always welcome to you. So that even whilst your kindness invites me to write to you, your wit and judgment forbid me; since I may return you a letter, but never an answer.

Now, as for my owning your assistance to me, in over-looking my unmusical numbers, and harsher sense, and correcting them both with your genius, or judgment; I must tell you I always own it (in spite of your unpoetic modesty) who would do with your friendship as your charity; conceal your bounty to magnify the obligation; and even whilst you lay on your friend the favour, acquit him of the debt: but that shall not serve your turn; I will always own, 'tis my infallible Pope has, or would redeem me from a poetical damning, the second time; and save my rhimes from being condemn'd to the critics flames to all eternity; but (by the faith you profess) you know your works of supererogation, transfer'd upon an humble, acknowledging sinner, may save even him: having good works enough of your own besides, to ensure yours, and their immortality.

And now for the pains you have taken to recommend my Dulness, by making it more methodical, I give you a thousand thanks; since true and natural dulness is shown more by its pretence to form and method, as the spright-  
linefs



lineſs <sup>a</sup> of wit by its deſpiſing both. I thank you a thouſand times for your repeated invitations to come to Binfield: You will find, it will be as hard for you to get quit of my mercenary kindneſs to you, as it would for me to deſerve, or return to yours; however it ſhall be the endeavour of my future life, as it will be to demonſtrate myſelf

Your, &c.

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L E T T E R XV.

Nov. 29, 1707.

**T**HE compliments you make me, in regard of any inconfiderable ſervice I could do you, are very unkind, and do but tell me in other words, that my friend has ſo mean an opinion of me, as to think I expect acknowledgments for trifles: which upon my faith I ſhall equally take amiſs, whether made to myſelf, or to any other. For God's ſake (my dear friend) think better of me, and believe I deſire no ſort of favour ſo much, as that of ſerving

<sup>a</sup> By *ſprightlineſs* he muſt mean, *extravagance of wit*. For ſober wit would no more deſpiſe *method* than it would

deſpiſe *words*, or any other vehicle it uſes, to make itſelf ſeen to advantage.

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you