



## **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**

XII.

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**Nutzungsbedingungen**

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FROM H. CROMWELL, Esq. 107

*Ring*; the rest I hope for as soon as you can conveniently transcribe them, and whatsoever orders you are pleas'd to give me shall be punctually obey'd by Your, &c.

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L E T T E R XII.

May 10, 1710.

I Had not so long omitted to express my acknowledgments to you for so much good-nature and friendship as you lately show'd me; but that I am but just return'd to my own hermitage, from Mr. C\*'s, who has done me so many favours, that I am almost inclin'd to think my friends infect one another, and that your conversation with him has made him as obliging to me as yourself. I can assure you, he has a sincere respect for you, and this, I believe, he has partly contracted from me, who am too full of you not to overflow upon those I converse with. But I must now be contented to converse only with the dead of this world, that is to say, the dull and obscure, every way obscure, in their intellects as well as their persons: or else have recourse to the living dead, the old Authors with whom you are so well acquainted, even from Virgil down to Aulus Gellius, whom I do not think a critic by any means

means to be compar'd to Mr. Dennis: And I must declare positively to you, that I will persist in this opinion, till you become a little more civil to Atticus. Who could have imagin'd, that he, who had escap'd all the misfortunes of his time, unhurt even by the proscriptions of Antony and Augustus, should in these days find an enemy more severe and barbarous than those tyrants? and that enemy the gentlest too, the best-natur'd of mortals, Mr. Cromwell, whom I must in this compare once more to Augustus; who seem'd not more unlike himself, in the severity of one part of his life and the clemency of the other, than you. I leave you to reflect on this, and hope that time (which mollifies rocks, and of stiff things makes limber) will turn a resolute critic to a gentle reader; and instead of this positive, tremendous, new-fashion'd Mr. Cromwell, restore unto us our old acquaintance, the soft, beneficent, and courteous Mr. Cromwell.

I expect much, towards the civilizing of you in your critical capacity, from the innocent air and tranquillity of our Forest, when you do me the favour to visit it. In the mean time, it would do well by way of preparative, if you would duly and constantly every morning read over a pastoral of Theocritus or Virgil; and let the lady Isabella put your Macrobius and

Aulus

FROM H. CROMWELL, Esq. 109

Aulus Gellius somewhere out of your way, for a month or so. Who knows, but travelling and long airing in an open field, may contribute more successfully to the cooling a critic's severity, than it did to the assuaging of Mr. Cheek's anger, of old? In these fields, you will be secure of finding no enemy, but the most faithful and affectionate of your friends, &c.

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L E T T E R XIII.

May 17, 1710.

AFTER I had recover'd from a dangerous illness which was first contracted in town, about a fortnight after my coming hither I troubled you with a letter, and<sup>a</sup> paper inclos'd, which you had been so obliging as to desire a sight of when last I saw you, promising me in return some translations of yours from Ovid. Since when, I have not had a syllable from your hands, so that 'tis to be fear'd that tho' I have escap'd death, I have not oblivion. I should at least have expected you to have finish'd that elegy upon me, which, you told me, you was upon the point of beginning when I was sick in London; if you will but do so much for me

<sup>a</sup> Verses on Silence, in | chester's poem on Nothing;  
imitation of the Earl of Ro- | done at fourteen years old. P.

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