



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

XXI. From Mr. Cromwell. On a passage in Lucan.

Nutzungsbedingungen

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LETTER XXI.

From Mr. CROMWELL.

Nov. 5, 1710.

I Find I am obliged to the sight of your verses, for your opinion of my sincerity; which had never been call'd in question, if you had not forced me, upon so many other occasions to express my esteem.

I have just read and compar'd^a Mr. Row's version of the ixth of Lucan, with very great pleasure, where I find none of those absurdities so frequent in that of Virgil, except in two places, for the sake of lashing the priests; one where Cato says—*Sortilegis egeant dubii*—and one in the simile of the Hæmorrhoids—*fatidici Sabæi*—He is so errant a whig, that he strains even beyond his author, in passion for liberty, and aversion to tyranny; and errs only in amplification. *Lucan ix in initio*, describing the seat of the *Semidei manes*, says,

*Quodque patet terras inter lunæque meatus,
Semidei manes habitant.*

Mr. Row has this Line,

Then looking down on the Sun's feeble Ray.

^a Pieces printed in the 6th vol. of Tonson's Miscellanies. P.

Pray

FROM H. CROMWELL, Esq. 131

Pray your opinion, if there be an Error-Sphaericus in this or no?

Your, &c.

LETTER XXII.

Nov 11, 1710.

YOU mistake me very much in thinking the freedom you kindly us'd with my love-verses, gave me the first opinion of your sincerity: I assure you it only did what every good-natur'd action of yours has done since, confirm'd me more in that opinion. The fable of the nightingale in Philips's pastoral, is taken from Famianus Strada's Latin poem on the same subject, in his *Prolusiones Academicæ*; only the tomb he erects at the end, is added from Virgil's conclusion of the *Culex*. I can't forbear giving you a passage out of the Latin poem I mention, by which you will find the English poet is indebted to it.

*Alternat mira arte fides : dum torquet acutas,
Inciditque, graves operoso verberere pulsat.
Jamque manu per fila volat ; simul hos, simul illos
Explorat numeros, chordaque laborat in omni.—
Mox silet. Illa modis totidem respondet, & artem
Arte refert. Nunc ceu rudis, aut incerta canendi,*

K 2

Præbet