



## **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.

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**Nutzungsbedingungen**

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-56122](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-56122)

## LETTER XXI.

From Mr. CROMWELL.

Nov. 5, 1710.

I Find I am obliged to the sight of your love-  
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 occa-  
sions to express my esteem.

I have just read and compar'd<sup>a</sup> Mr. Row's  
version of the ix<sup>th</sup> 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 am-  
plification. *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.*

<sup>a</sup> Pieces printed in the 6th vol. of Tonson's Miscella-  
nies. P.

Pray

FROM H. CROMWELL, Esq. 131

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

Your, &c.

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L E T T E R 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 verberare 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,*

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*Præbet*