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## **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**

XXIII. From Mr. Cromwell.

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**Nutzungsbedingungen**

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## L E T T E R   X X I I I .

From Mr. C R O M W E L L .

Nov. 20, 1710.

**T**H E system of Tycho Brahe (were it true, as it is novel) could have no room here: Lucan with the rest of the Latin poets, seems to follow Plato; whose order of the spheres is clear in Cicero, *De natura Deorum*, *De somnio Scipionis*, and in Macrobius, The seat of the *Semidei manes* is Platonic too, for *Apuleius De deo Socratis* assigns the same to the Genii, viz, the region of the Air for their intercourse with gods and men; so that, I fancy, Rowe mistook the situation, and I can't be reconcil'd to, *Look down on the sun's rays*. I am glad you agree with me about the latitude he takes; and wish you had told me, if the *sortilegi*, and *fatidici*, could license his invective against priests; but, I suppose, you think them (with Helena) undeserving of your protection. I agree with you in Lucan's errors, and the cause of them, his poetic descriptions: for the Romans then knew the coast of Africa from Cyrene (to the south-east of which lies Ammon toward Egypt) to Leptis and Utica: but, pray, remember how your Homer nodded while Ulysses slept, and  
waking

waking knew not where he was, in the short passage from Corcyra to Ithaca. I like Trapp's versions for their justness; his Psalm is excellent, the prodigies in the first Georgic judicious (whence I conclude that 'tis easier to turn Virgil justly in blank verse, than rhyme.) The eclogue of Gallus, and fable of Phaeton pretty well; but he is very faulty in his numbers; the fate of Phaeton might run thus,

*The blasted Phaeton with blazing hair,  
Shot gliding thro' the vast abyss of air,  
And tumbled headlong, like a falling star.* }

I am,

Your, &c.

L E T T E R XXIV.

Nov. 24, 1710.

**T**O make use of that freedom and familiarity of style, which we have taken up in our correspondence, and which is more properly talking upon paper, than writing; I will tell you without any preface, that I never took Tycho Brahe for one of the ancients, or in the least an acquaintance of Lucan's; nay, 'tis a mercy on this occasion that I do not give you an account of his life and conversation; as how he liv'd some years like an enchanted knight in

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