



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

XIII.

Nutzungsbedingungen

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

I apprehend he will die, just as he gets something to live upon. Adieu.

L E T T E R X I I I .

THIS is a day of wishes for you, and I hope you have long known, there is not one good one which I do not form in your behalf. Every year that passes, I wish some things more for my friends, and some things less for myself. Yet were I to tell you what I wish for you in particular, it would be only to repeat in prose, what I told you last year in rhyme (so sincere is my poetry :) I can only add, that as I then wish'd you a friend^a, I now wish that friend were Mrs. —

Absence is a short kind of death; and in either, one can only wish, that the friends we are separated from, may be happy with those that are left them. I am therefore very solicitous that you may pass much agreeable time together: I am sorry to say I envy you no other companion; tho' I hope you have others that you like; and I am always pleas'd in that hope, when it is not attended with any fears on your own account.

^a *To Mrs. — on her Birth-day.*

“ O be thou blest with all that heav'n can send,

“ Long health, long life, long pleasure, and a friend.”

I was

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I was troubled to leave you both, just as I fancy'd we should begin to live together in the country. 'Twas a little like dying the moment one had got all one desir'd in this world. Yet I go away with one generous sort of satisfaction, that what I part with, you are to inherit.

I know you would both be pleas'd to hear some certain news of a friend departed ; to have the adventures of his passage, and the new regions thro' which he travell'd, described ; and, upon the whole, to know, that he is as happy where he now is, as while he liv'd among you. But indeed I (like many a poor unprepar'd soul) have seen nothing I like so well as what I left : No scenes of Paradise, no happy bowers, equal to those on the banks of the Thames. Wherever I wander, one reflection strikes me : I wish you were as free as I ; or at least had a tie as tender, and as reasonable as mine, to a relation that as well deserved your constant thought, and to whom you would be always pull'd back (in such a manner as I am) by the heart-string. I have never been well since I set out : but don't tell my mother so ; it will trouble her too much : And as probably the same reason may prevent her sending a true account of her health to me, I must desire you to acquaint me. I would gladly hear the country air improves

your own ; but don't flatter me when you are ill, that I may be the better satisfy'd when you say you are well : for these are things in which one may be sincerer to a reasonable friend, than to a fond and partial parent. Adieu.

L E T T E R X I V .

YOU can't be surpriz'd to find him a dull correspondent whom you have known so long for a dull companion. And tho' I am pretty sensible, that, if I have any wit, I may as well write to show it, as not ; yet I'll content myself with giving you as plain a history of my pilgrimage, as Purchas himself, or as John Bunyan could do of his *walking through the wilderness of this world*, &c.

First then I went by water to Hampton-Court, unattended by all but my own virtues ; which were not of so modest a nature as to keep themselves, or me, conceal'd : For I met the Prince with all his ladies on horseback, coming from hunting. Mrs. B* and Mrs. L* took me into protection (contrary to the laws against harbouring Papists) and gave me a dinner, with something I liked better, an opportunity of conversation with Mrs. H*. We all agreed that the life of a Maid of honour was of all things
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