



## **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**

XIV.

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**Nutzungsbedingungen**

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

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.

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## L E T T E R   X I V .

**Y**OU 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  
the



the most miserable: and wish'd that every woman who envy'd it, had a specimen of it. To eat Westphalia-ham in a morning, ride over hedges and ditches on borrowed hacks, come home in the heat of the day with a fever, and (what is worse a hundred times) with a red mark in the forehead from an uneasy hat; all this may qualify them to make excellent wives for fox-hunters, and bear abundance of ruddy complexion'd children. As soon as they can wipe off the sweat of the day, they must simmer an hour and catch cold, in the Princess's apartment: from thence (as Shakespear has it) to *dinner, with what appetite they may*—and after that, till midnight, walk, work, or think, which they please. I can easily believe, no lighthouse in Wales, with a mountain and a rookery, is more contemplative than this Court; and as a proof of it I need only tell you, Mrs. L\* walk'd with me three or four hours by moonlight, and we met no creature of any quality but the King, who gave audience to the vice-chamberlain, all alone, under the garden-wall.

In short, I heard of no ball, assembly, basset-table, or any place where two or three were gathered together, except Madam Kilmansegg's, to which I had the honour to be invited, and the grace to stay away.

I was



I was heartily tired, and posted to — park: there we had an excellent discourse of quackery; Dr. S\* was mentioned with honour. Lady — walked a whole hour abroad without dying after it, at least in the time I stay'd, tho' she seem'd to be fainting, and had convulsive motions several times in her head.

I arrived in the forest by Tuesday noon, having fled from the face (I wish I could say the horned face) of Moses, who dined in the mid-way thither. I pass'd the rest of the day in those woods where I have so often enjoy'd a book and a friend; I made a Hymn as I pass'd thro', which ended with a sigh, that I will not tell you the meaning of.

Your Doctor is gone the way of all his patients, and was hard put to it how to dispose of an estate miserably unwieldly, and splendidly unuseful to him. Sir Samuel Garth says, that for Ratcliffe to leave a library, was as if a Eunuch should found a Seraglio. Dr. S— lately told a lady, he wonder'd she could be alive after him: she made answer, she wonder'd at it for two reasons, because Dr. Ratcliffe was dead, and because Dr. S— was living. I am

Your, &c.

L E T T E R