



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

XVII. To the Hon. --- concerning Mr. Addison, Philips's calumny, and Mr.
Gay's pastorals.

Nutzungsbedingungen

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FROM SEVERAL PERSONS. 279

to point out those strokes to me, and, you may be assured, they shall be treated without mercy.

Since we are upon proofs of sincerity (which I am pretty confident will turn to the advantage of us both in each other's opinion) give me leave to name another passage in the same Spectator, which I wish you would alter. It is where you mention an observation upon Homer's Verses of Sisyphus's Stone, as ^a never having been made before by any of the Critics: I happened to find the same in Dionysius of Halicarnassus's Treatise, *Περὶ σωθέσεως ὀνομάτων*, who treats very largely upon these verses. I know you will think fit to soften your expression, when you see the passage; which you must needs have read, though it be since slipped out of your memory. I am, with the utmost esteem,

Your, &c.

L E T T E R XVII.

To the Honourable —

June 8, 1714.

THE question you ask in relation to Mr. Addison and Philips, I shall answer in a

^a These words are since left out in Mr. Tickel's Edition, but were extant in all during Mr. Addison's life. P.
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few words. Mr. Philips did express himself with much indignation against me one evening at Button's Coffee-house (as I was told) saying, that I was enter'd into a cabal with Dean Swift and others to write against the Whig-Interest, and in particular to undermine his own reputation, and that of his friends Steele and Addison: but Mr. Philips never opened his lips to my face, on this or any like occasion, tho' I was almost every night in the same room with him, nor ever offer'd me any indecorum. Mr. Addison came to me a night or two after Philips had talk'd in this idle manner, and assur'd me of his disbelief of what had been said, of the friendship we should always maintain, and desir'd I would say nothing further of it. My Lord Hallifax did me the honour to stir in this matter, by speaking to several people to obviate a false aspersion, which might have done me no small prejudice with one party. However Philips did all he could secretly to continue the report with the Hanover Club, and kept in his hands the subscriptions paid for me to him, as Secretary to that Club. The heads of it have since given him to understand, that they take it ill; but (upon the terms I ought to be with such a man) I would not ask him for this money, but commission'd one of the Players, his equals, to receive it. This is the whole

whole matter ; but as to the secret grounds^a of this malignity, they will make a very pleasant history when we meet. Mr. Congreve and some others have been much diverted with it, and most of the gentlemen of the Hanover Club have made it the subject of their ridicule on their Secretary. It is to this management of Phillips, that the world owes Mr. Gay's Pastorals. The ingenious author is extremely your servant, and would have comply'd with your kind invitation, but that he is just now appointed Secretary to my Lord Clarendon, in his embassy to Hanover.

I am sensible of the zeal and friendship with which, I am sure, you will always defend your friend in his absence, from all those little tales and calumnies, which a man of any genius or merit is born to. I shall never complain while I am happy in such noble defenders, and in such contemptible opponents. May their envy and ill-nature ever increase, to the glory and pleasure of those they would injure ; may they represent me what they will, as long as you think me, what I am,

Your, &c.

^a They were Mr. Pope's writing the ironical comparison between his and Phillips's Pastorals, in the Guardian.