



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

XXV. Dr. Parnelle, Dr. Berkley, Mr. Gay, and Dr. Arbuthnot; concerning Mr.
Pope's Homer.

Nutzungsbedingungen

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strain of generosity in you, to think of making me easy all my life, only because I have been so happy as to divert you some few hours: but if I may have leave to add, it is because you think me no enemy to my native country, there will appear a better reason; for I must of consequence be very much (as I sincerely am)

Yours, &c.

^a L E T T E R XXV.

Dr. PARNELLE to Mr. POPE.

I Am writing you a long letter, but all the tediousness I feel in it is, that it makes me during the time think more intently of my being far from you. I fancy, if I were with you, I could remove some of the uneasiness which you may have felt from the opposition of the world, and which you should be ashamed to feel, since it is but the testimony which one part of it gives you that your merit is unquestionable. What would you have otherwise, from ignorance, envy, or those tempers which vie with you in your own way? I know this in mankind, that when our ambition is unable to

^a This, and the three Extracts following, concerning the Translation of the first

Iliad, set on foot by Mr. Addison, Mr. Pope has omitted in his first Edition. P.

attain

attain its end, it is not only wearied, but exasperated too at the vanity of its labours; then we speak ill of happier studies, and sighing condemn the excellence which we find above our reach.——

My ^b Zoilus, which you us'd to write about, I finish'd last spring, and left in town. I waited till I came up to send it you, but not arriving here before your book was out, imagin'd it a lost piece of labour. If you will still have it, you need only write me word.

I have here seen the First Book of Homer ^c, which came out at a time when it could not but appear as a kind of setting up against you. My opinion is, that you may, if you please, give them thanks who writ it. Neither the numbers nor the spirit have an equal mastery with yours; but what surprizes me more is, that, a scholar being concerned, there should happen to be some mistakes in the author's sense; such as putting the light of Pallas's eyes into the eyes of Achilles, making the taunt of Achilles to Agamemnon (that he should have spoils when Troy should be taken) to be a cool and serious proposal; the translating what you

^b Printed for B. Lintot, 1715. 8°, and afterwards added to the last edition of his poems.

^c Written by Mr. Addison, and published in the name of Mr. Tickell.

call *Ablution* by the word *offals*, and so leaving Water out of the rite of lustration, &c. but you must have taken notice of all this before. I write not to inform you, but to shew I always have you at heart.

I am, &c.

Extract from a LETTER of the Rev.
Dr. BERKLEY, Dean of London-derry.

July 7, 1715.

— Some days ago, three or four gentlemen and myself, exerting that right which all readers pretend to over authors, sat in judgment upon the two new Translations of the first Iliad. Without partiality to my country-men, I assure you, they all gave the preference where it was due; being unanimously of opinion, that yours was equally just to the sense with Mr. —'s, and without comparison more easy, more poetical, and more sublime. But I will say no more on such a thread-bare subject, as your late performance is at this time.

I am, &c.

Extract

Extract from a LETTER of
Mr. GAY to Mr. POPE.

July 8, 1715.

— I have just set down Sir Samuel Garth at the Opera. He bid me tell you, that every body is pleas'd with your translation, but a few at Button's; and that Sir Richard Steele told him, that Mr. Addison said the other translation was the best that ever was in any language^a. He treated me with extreme civility, and out of kindness gave me a squeeze by the fore finger. — I am inform'd that at Button's your character is made very free with as to Morals, &c. and Mr. Addison says, that your translation and Tickel's are both very well done, but that the latter has more of Homer.

I am, &c.

^a Sir Richard Steele afterwards, in his Preface to an Edition of the Drummer, a Comedy by Mr. Addison, shews it to be his opinion, that "Mr. Addison himself" was the person who translated this book." P.

Extract from a LETTER of
Dr. ARBUTHNOT to Mr. POPE.

July 9, 1715.

— I congratulate you upon Mr. T*'s first book. It does not indeed want its merit; but I was strangely disappointed in my expectation of a translation nicely true to the Original; whereas in those parts where the greatest exactness seems to be demanded, he has been the least careful, I mean the history of ancient ceremonies and rites, &c. in which you have with great judgment been exact.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R XXVI.

Mr. POPE to the Honourable JAMES
CRAGGS, Esq.

July 15, 1715.

I Lay hold of the opportunity given me by my Lord Duke of Shrewsbury, to assure you of the continuance of that esteem and affection I have long born you, and the memory of so many agreeable conversations as we have pass'd together. I wish it were a compliment to say,
I such