



## **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**

XXX. From Mr. Congreve.

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**Nutzungsbedingungen**

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with us, who are under a persecution, and much afflicted with a distemper which proves mortal to many poets, a Criticism. We have indeed some relieving intervals of laughter (as you know there are in some diseases) and it is the opinion of divers good guessers, that the last fit will not be more violent than advantageous; for poets assail'd by critics, are like men bitten by Tarantula's, they dance on so much the faster.

Mr. Thomas Burnet hath play'd the precursor to the coming of Homer, in a treatise called *Homerides*. He has since risen very much in his criticisms, and, after assailing Homer, made a daring attack upon the ° What-d'ye-call it. Yet is there not a Proclamation issued for the burning of Homer and the Pope by the common hangman; nor is the What-d'ye-call it yet silenced by the Lord chamberlain.

Your, &c.

### L E T T E R XXX.

Mr. CONGREVE to Mr. POPE.

May 6.

**I** Have the pleasure of your very kind letter. I have always been obliged to you for your

° In one of his papers called *The Grumbler*. P.

friendship



friendship and concern for me, and am more affected with it, than I will take upon me to express in this letter. I do assure you there is no return wanting on my part, and am very sorry I had not the good luck to see the Dean before I left the town: it is a great pleasure to me, and not a little vanity to think that he misses me. As to my health, which you are so kind to enquire after, it is not worse than in London: I am almost afraid yet to say that it is better, for I cannot reasonably expect much effect from these waters in so short a time; but in the main they seem to agree with me. Here is not one creature that I know, which, next to the few I would chuse, contributes very much to my satisfaction. At the same time that I regret the want of your conversation, I please myself with thinking that you are where you first ought to be, and engaged where you cannot do too much. Pray, give my humble service, and best wishes to your good mother. I am sorry you don't tell me how Mr. Gay does in his health; I should have been glad to have heard he was better. My young Amanuensis, as you call him, I am afraid, will prove but a wooden one: and you know *ex quovis ligno*, &c. You will pardon Mrs. R—'s pedantry, and believe me to be

Your, &c.

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P. S.



P. S. By the inclosed you will see I am like to be impress'd, and enroll'd in the list of Mr. Curll's Authors; but, I thank God! I shall have your company. I believe it high time you should think of administering another Emetic.

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LETTERS