



## **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**

V. The Hon. Mr. Craggs to Mr. Pope.

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Nutzungsbedingungen

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of one Poet can hardly be so heavy, as to bring an old house over the heads of so many Painters. In a word, your house is falling; but what of that? I am only a lodger<sup>c</sup>.

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L E T T E R V.

The Hon. Mr. CRAGGS to Mr. POPE.

Paris, Sept. 2, 1716.

**L** A S T post brought me the favour of your letter of the 10th Aug. O. S. It would be taking too much upon me to decide, that it was a witty one; I never pretend to more judgment than to know what pleases me, and can assure you, it was a very agreeable one. The proof I can give you of my sincerity in this opinion, is, that I hope and desire you would not stop at this, but continue more of them.

I am in a place where pleasure is continually flowing. The Princes set the example, and the subjects follow at a distance. The Ladies are of all parties<sup>d</sup>, by which means the conversation of the men is very much softened and fashioned from those blunt disputes on Politics, and rough jests, we are so guilty of; while the

<sup>c</sup> Alluding to the story of the Irishman.

<sup>d</sup> i. e. In all companies.



freedom of the women takes away all formality and constraint. I must own, at the same time, these Beauties are a little too artificial for my taste: you have seen a French picture, the Original is more painted, and such a crust of powder and essence in their hair, that you can see no difference between black and red. By disusing Stays and indulging themselves at table, they run out of all shape; but as to that, they may give a good reason, they prefer Conveniency to Parade, and are, by this means, as ready, as they are generally willing, to be charitable.

I am surpriz'd to find I have wrote so much scandal; I fancy I am either setting up for a wit, or imagine I must write in this style to a wit; I hope you'll prove a good-natur'd one, and not only let me hear from you sometimes, but forgive the small encouragement you meet with. I won't trouble myself to finish finely; a true compliment is better than a good one, and I can assure you without any, that I am very sincerely,

Sir, Yours, &c.

L E T T E R