



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

VI. To Mr. Fenton. Concerning Mr. Secretary Craggs's advice to him to write. The author's manner of passing his time.

Nutzungsbedingungen

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LETTER VI.

TO MR. FENTON.

S I R,

May 5.

I Had not omitted answering yours of the 18th of last month, but out of a desire to give you some certain and satisfactory account, which way, and at what time, you might take your journey. I am now commissioned to tell you, that Mr. Craggs will expect you on the rising of the Parliament, which will be as soon as he can receive you in the manner he would receive a man *de belles Lettres*, that is, in tranquillity and full leisure. I dare say your way of life (which, in my taste, will be the best in the world, and with one of the best men in the world) must prove highly to your contentment. And, I must add, it will be still the more a joy to me, as I shall reap a peculiar advantage from the good I shall have done in bringing you together^a, by seeing it in my own neighbour-

^a Mr Craggs had had no learned education: he wanted to improve himself in knowledge of that kind, and desired Mr. Pope to chuse him out a polite scholar, by whose conversation and in-

struction he might improve himself in letters. Mr. Pope recommended Mr. Fenton: but Mr Craggs' untimely death prevented both from receiving the benefits of this connexion.

hood. Mr. Craggs has taken a house close by mine, whither he proposes to come in three weeks : In the mean time I heartily invite you to live with me ; where a frugal and philosophical diet, for a time, may give you a higher relish of that elegant way of life you will enter into after. I desire to know by the first post how soon I may hope for you ?

I am a little scandalized at your complaint that your time lies heavy on your hands, when the Muses have put so many good materials into your head to employ them. As to your question, What I am doing ? I answer, Just what I have been doing some years, my duty ; secondly, relieving myself with necessary amusements, or exercises, which shall serve me instead of physic as long as they can ; thirdly, reading till I am tired ; and lastly, writing when I have no other thing in the world to do, or no friend to entertain in company.

My mother is, I thank God, the easier, if not the better, for my cares ; and I am the happier in that regard, as well as in the consciousness of doing my best. My next felicity is in retaining the good opinion of honest men, who think me not quite undeserving of it ; and in finding no injuries from others hurt me, as long as I know myself. I will add the sincerity with which I act towards ingenious and undesigning

signing men, and which makes me always (even by a natural bond) their friend; therefore believe me very affectionately

Your, &c.

L E T T E R VII.

Rev. Dean^a BERKLEY, to Mr. POPE.

Naples, Oct. 22. N. S. 1717.

I Have long had it in my thoughts to trouble you with a letter, but was discouraged for want of something that I could think worth sending fifteen hundred miles. Italy is such an exhausted subject, that, I dare say, you'd easily forgive my saying nothing of it; and the imagination of a Poet is a thing so nice and delicate, that it is no easy matter to find out images capable of giving pleasure to one of the few, who (in any age) have come up to that character. I am nevertheless lately returned from an island, where I passed three or four months; which, were it set out in its true colours, might, methinks, amuse you agreeably enough for a minute or two. The island Inarime is an epi-

^a Afterwards Bishop of Cloyne in Ireland, Author of the Dialogues of Hylas | and Philonous, the Minute Philosopher, &c. P.