

**A FINAL APPEAL TO THE LITERARY
PUBLIC, RELATIVE TO POPE: IN REPLY TO
CERTAIN
OBSERVATIONS OF MR. ROSCOE, IN HIS
EDITION OF THAT POET'S WORKS. IN
LETTERS TO A LITERARY FRIEND**

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A Final Appeal to the Literary Public, Relative to Pope: In Reply to Certain Observations of Mr. Roscoe, in His Edition of That Poet's Works. In Letters to a Literary Friend by Wm. L. Bowles

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WM. L. BOWLES

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TO
THE LITERARY PUBLIC,
RELATIVE TO
P O P E.

Published separately, or as a Supplement to Bowler's Edition of Pope.

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IN REPLY TO CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS OF MR. ROSCOE,
IN HIS EDITION OF THAT POET'S WORKS.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

SOME REMARKS ON LORD BYRON'S CONVERSATIONS,
AS FAR AS THEY RELATE TO THE SAME SUBJECT
AND THE AUTHOR.

IN LETTERS TO A LITERARY FRIEND

BY THE REV. WM. L. BOWLES, A.M.

PREBENDARY OF SARUM, FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, AND
FORMER EDITOR OF POPE'S WORKS IN TEN VOLUMES.

Refellere sine acrimonia, refelli, sine iracundia paratus.

LONDON:
HURST, ROBINSON, AND CO. CHEAPSIDE.

1825.

C. K.

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

TO

GEORGE WATSON TAYLOR, Esq; M. P.

MY DEAR SIR,

As you have in your library the Works of Pope lately edited by Mr. Roscoe; and as you first informed me that some opinions of mine, (deliberately formed and publicly maintained, on the character of that poet as a man, and on his rank in his art,) were again brought into discussion by Mr. Roscoe:—Unwilling that you should think those opinions rashly entertained, or hastily advanced, I have taken the liberty of dedicating the following pages to you, requesting your impartial attention to the arguments on the different points of discussion;

And I am, dear Sir,

Most faithfully yours,

W. L. BOWLES.

Bremhill, Jan. 1, 1825.

Mr. W. W. Roscoe

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TO THE READER.

Deeming it an indispensable public duty to meet respectfully, but to combat fairly, any arguments brought against my conscientiously entertained and publicly professed moral sentiments, and critical opinions, in the edition of Pope's Works edited by me; I feel more particularly called upon so to do, when those sentiments and opinions are opposed by so accomplished a scholar as the Author of the *Life of Lorenzo de Medici*.

After so much discussion, I am indeed most reluctant to engage in any part of the subject again; but the circumstances connected with the publication of Pope's Letters have never yet been examined with the

attention which they deserve; and those circumstances constitute an important point, in a review of that poet's life and character.

With respect to the second topic of discussion, although it has been almost exhausted, yet Mr. Roscoe has advanced some *new*, and which probably appear to him incontrovertible, arguments, to prove that Pope was entitled to be placed, as a poet, in the same rank with "SPENSER and SHAKESPEARE." On this point we are at issue. Steadfast on the ground of my "Invariable Principles of Poetry,"* I maintain that some subjects are *more adapted to the higher order* of poetry than others; that neither moral essays in verse, nor satires, are of this order; and that though the genius of a poet may render such subjects, in point of execution, *perfect* in their kind—no genius, no skill, can so exalt them as to entitle the author to be placed in the FIRST AND HIGHEST RANK in poetry, for reasons which will be more fully illustrated in the following pages.

* See Letter to Mr. Campbell.

Into this part of the subject, I hope I may be found to have introduced some variety, particularly in examining Mr. Roscoe's specific proofs, brought to oppose the grounds of my criticism; and I believe the answers will be considered as complete as those to Lord Byron.

There are a few personal observations, to which, for my own sake, it was necessary that some answer should be given. And I trust, that what I shall offer, in excuse for some trifling oversights, will meet with a candid reception from every ingenuous and manly mind.

Two observations of Mr. Roscoe I forgot to answer in their proper places. He most amiably enquires, "how is the conduct so unjustly by me imputed to Pope, *reconcilable* with the affecting lines on Martha Blount's "birth-day?" In return, will he inform us, how the most offensive licentiousness of language can be "*reconcilable*" with professed virtue and purity? He says, that from *one* letter of Pope I infer a wish, on his part, that Martha Blount should "throw off the