

Dr Sir

16

Wiltam. Nov. 13.  
1733.

I fully hoped to have seen you  
ere now, but tho I was in Town two days & half, I  
could find no Evening; and am now unwilling  
to be there, till all y<sup>e</sup> Bussle of y<sup>e</sup> Wedding  
is over. In y<sup>e</sup> meantime, I hope you'll secure  
Mr Mount, by insuring Roberts's life y<sup>e</sup> moment  
he comes to Town, if it were but for 2. or 3  
months, or less, (if y<sup>e</sup> Money be not actually got  
tooner.) I've sent y<sup>e</sup> Last Assurance, in  
case it can be any direction to y<sup>e</sup> next. I  
employ these few days in putting y<sup>e</sup> last hand  
to my Essay, & I will then immediately print it  
I meditate a fine Edition of the whole, which  
I will soon have y<sup>e</sup> pleasure to see in your  
Library, with an Inscription of the Love the  
author bears you sincerely. Dr Sir I am  
I am told, that Miss Fortescue is perfectly well (I hope truly) always yours. A. Pope

Mr Pope

Nov. 13. 1733

Letter 37 of the letters  
to Mr Fortescue Vol IX

page 391 of Poper  
works 1824.

Ms. Arloy: 5. N. 5.  
at Book - 0. No.

ALEXANDER POPE, A. L. S., 13 November 1733, to  
William Fortescue.

Twit'nam. Nov. 13.  
1733.

D<sup>r</sup>.S<sup>r</sup>.

I fully hoped to have seen you e're now, but tho I was in town  
two days & half, I could find no Evening; and am now unwilling to be

there, till all the Bussle of the Wedding is over. In the meantime, I hope you'll secure M<sup>rs</sup> Blount, by insuring Roberts life the moment he comes to town, if it were but for 2 or 3 months, or less, (if the mony be not actually p<sup>d</sup>. sooner.) I've sent the Last Assurance, in case it can be any direction to the Next. [letter deleted] I employ these few days in putting the last hand to my Essay, & I will then immediately print it. I meditate a fine edition of the whole, which I will soon have the pleasure to see in your Library, with an Inscription of the Love the author bears you sincerely. D<sup>r</sup>Sir I am

I am told that Miss Fortescue is always yours.  
perfectly well (I hope truly) A. Pope

ALS, 1 page. Single sheet, 22.8 x 18.9 cm.

Laid paper. Watermark obscured by repair to sheet.

Seal (preserved under paper): red wafer, bust of bearded male.

Docket (verso): Mr Pope | Nov. 13. 1733. Verso of sheet also

has MS note, in Pope's hand, which I cannot explain: M<sup>E</sup>:

Atley : 5N5 : | at Book—9N9 : .

Provenance: Unknown. Numbered 16 in MS ink at top.

Published, with 4 accidental variations from the Lewis MS, by George Sherburn, *The Correspondence of Alexander Pope* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1956), III, 395.

Notes: 1. William Fortescue, a close London friend of Pope's, was eminent in the legal profession—at this time King's counsel. The impending Wedding, in this month of November, was his daughter's.

2. For more of Pope's involvement in the financial affairs of Mrs. Lister Blount (mother to Pope's intimate Martha) see his letter to Fortescue, 15 May 1729. The "Last Assurance," then, was an earlier policy in Mrs. Blount's favor.

3. The fourth Epistle of *Essay on Man* was to be published—anonously, like the first three—in January 1734.

4. Here published by permission of The Clarendon Press, Oxford.

Twitham. Nov. 13, 1733

Dear Sir:

I fully hoped to have seen you ere now, but tho I was in town two days & half, I could find no Evening; and am now unwilling to be there, till all ye Bustle of ye Wedding is over. In ye meantime, I hope you'l Mrs. Blount, by Roberts life ye moment he comes to town, if it were but for 2 or 3 months, or less, (if ye money be not actually paid sooner). I've sent yr Last Assurance, in case it can be any direction to yr next.

I employ these few days in putting ye last hand to my Essay, & I will then immediately print it. I meditate a fine edition of the whole, which I will soon have ye pleasure to see in your library, with an Inscription of the Love the author bears you sincerely.

Dr Sir, I am

always yours

A. Pope

I am told that Miss Fortescue is perfectly well

(I hope truly)