

might justly excite surprise. The young author was conscious that an unfavourable impression might arise from this; and he felt, in presenting new editions of the Metres and of the Satires and Epistles, that he exposed himself to the imputation either of unjustly depreciating the merits of others, or of presumptuously overrating his own. It was not his intention, however, to anticipate these charges by aspersions on the knowledge or industry of previous editors, nor yet by professions of what he himself had been able to effect. With respect to both the Metres and the Satires and Epistles he merely stated the design which he had in view and the plan which he had pursued in preparing the books for publication. His readers would "then be better qualified to pronounce how far the reproof of the poet might be applicable: *In silvam non ligna feras insanius.*"

One objection, perhaps the only one that could be offered to the plan outlined by the editor, was, that instead of removing doubts it rather tended to excite them, by perplexing the reader with a variety of conflicting opinions. This he endeavoured to obviate by giving the explanation which he regarded as correct. This was not done from any desire to set up his own judgment as a standard, far less as being superior, but because "it appeared reasonable that the same person who suggested the difficulties should also assist in the solution; and,