

APPENDIX A

“BIBLIOTHECA: A Poem, Occasioned by the sight of a Modern Library. With some very useful episodes and digressions,” is to be found in the third volume, page 19, of *A Select Collection of Poems*. 8 vols. London. 1780, printed for and by J. Nichols. In a footnote Nichols says, “This is ascribed to Dr. King upon conjecture only. It was published in 1712, the winter before he died, by his bookseller, inscribed to his patron, and is very much in his manner. His name is accordingly affixed to the author’s notes.” It is now given to Thomas Newcomb, though on what grounds I do not know. It seems to be written very much in King’s manner, especially when we compare this quotation with that from *Some Account of Horace’s Behaviour*, given in Chapter II.

The idea of the poem was evidently derived from *The Battle of the Books*. The poet goes into a modern library, and, the books impersonating their authors, the poet discusses them one by one; Defoe especially comes in for some hard knocks. Nichols (p. 65) points to the similarity between the Oblivion of this poem and the Goddess of *The Dunciad*, and adds that there are many more points of similarity. He then compares the first two lines of the passage quoted with these two in *The Dunciad*.

Bk. IV, line 219,

“’Tis true, On words is still our whole debate
Disputes of Me or Te, of aut or at.”

Compare the following selections also :