

Dr. Ashley Recalls A Dream

I suppose the thing I did on Pope
Should find a home one of these days.
They all said it was good, liked it
Immensely, encouraged me, but with the load
I've had here, well, revisions and all
The new research — you've seen our
Library by now I imagine. And yet
One or two of the larger houses have
Expressed interest. Keen, one of them.
You might say I chose to teach instead,
Leave the glory for the other fellow,
Though I haven't seen anything on that
Twickenham scoundrel to match it. One
Day I'll give it to the world. Perhaps a
Summer when I'm free. The work involved
Isn't monstrous, just time-consuming.

But it is a dream, not unrealizable,
And one day Pope shall immortalize
Me. And then I'll be free to move on,
Not that I haven't been well-treated
Here, you understand, but the element
Of time, and the hours here, well,
Perhaps you'll see it too when you've
Put in a dozen years. Naturally
The houses want the proper auctorial
Address. They have a private
Prejudice which makes it doubly
Difficult here, in our public
Situation. But if it's good, if it's
Really good they can't look the other
Way. You make them see you. Loom so
Large you're unavoidable. Any day
Now something might break for me.
But I wouldn't say anything now.
Discretion, you know.

— Lee Jacobus

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