
Satires

Hall Joseph

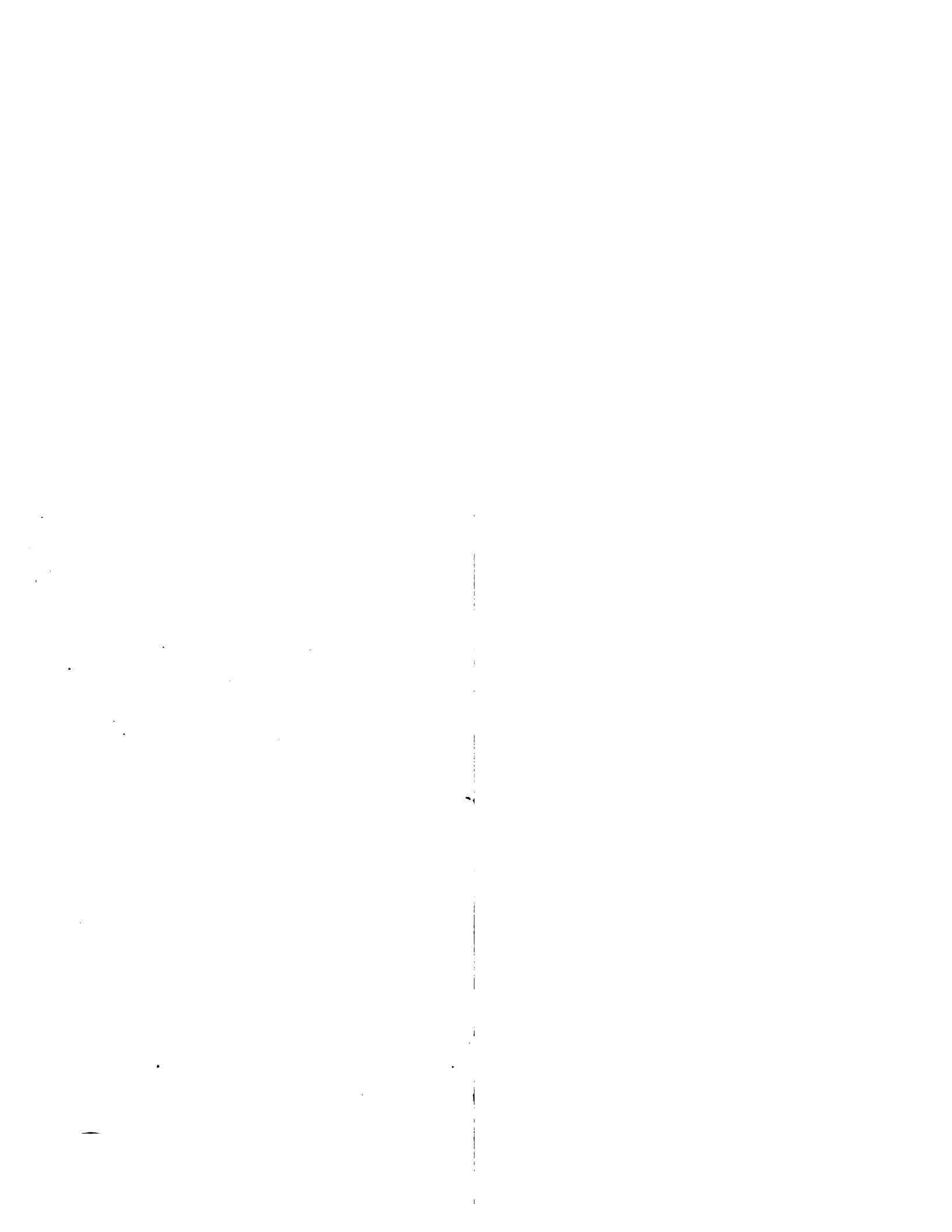
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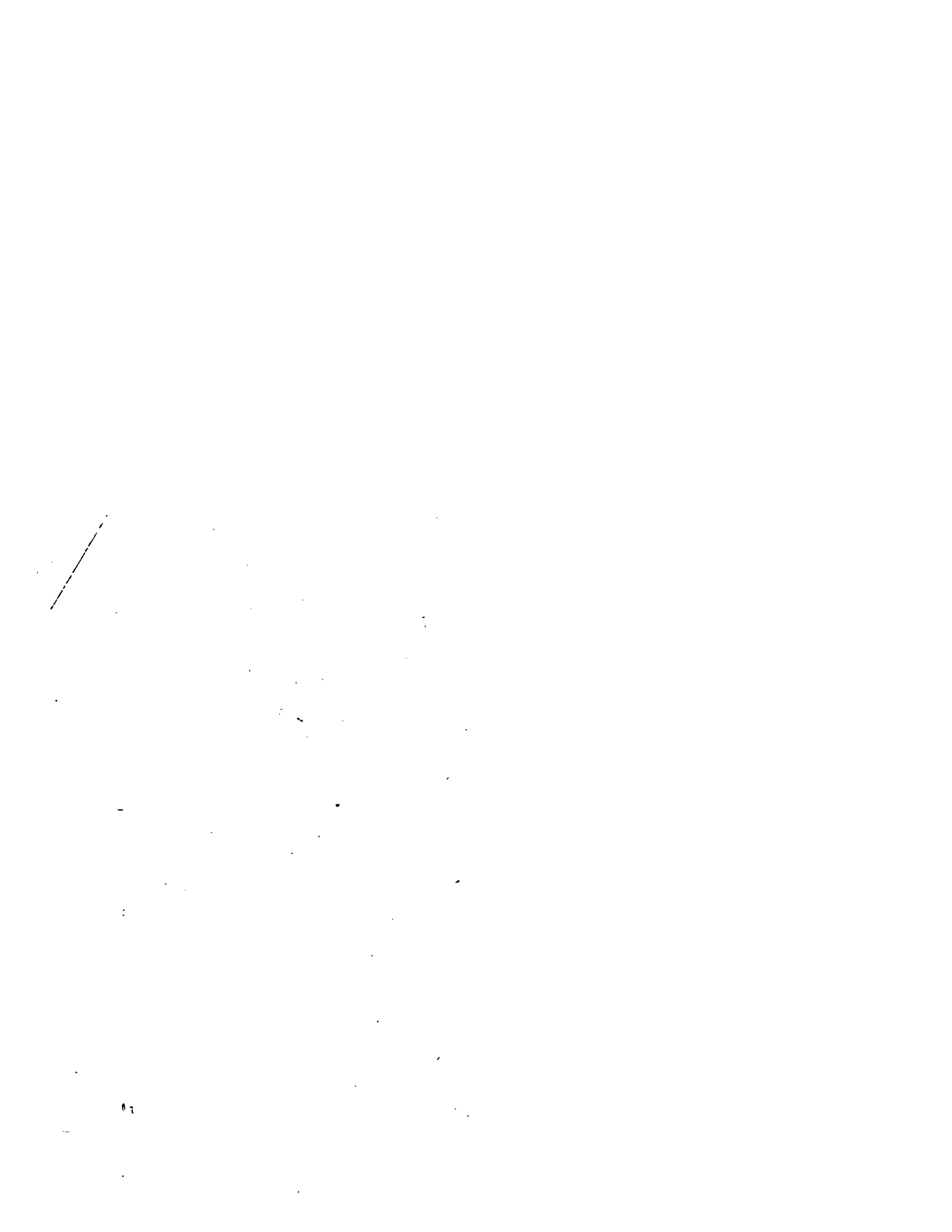
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HALL'S
SATIRES.



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JOSEPH HALL,

Bishop of Norwich

OB. SEPT. 8. 1656. ETATIS SUE. 82.

SATIRES.

BY

JOSEPH HALL, *b. p. d. Norwich*

AFTERWARDS BISHOP OF EXETER AND NORWICH.

WITH THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE LATE

REV. THOMAS WARTON.

AND ADDITIONAL NOTES

BY SAMUEL WELLER SINGER.



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THE
EDITOR'S PREFACE.

WHEN these Satires were shown to Pope at a late period of his poetical career, he was so sensible of their merit as to *wish he had seen them sooner*¹. I doubt not that every reader who takes them up for the first time will be surprised that so much sterling good sense, such nervous language, and such masterly versification should not have commanded more popularity. Yet nothing can be less true than Warton's remark, that Hall is better known as a *poet* than as a *prelate* or *polemic*. The Sermons and Meditations of the divine retained

¹ Warburton told Warton, that in a copy of Hall's Satires in Pope's library, the whole first satire of the sixth book was corrected in the margin, or interlined in Pope's own hand; and that Pope had written at the head of that satire OPTIMA SATIRA.

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their popularity, while the youthful effusions of the poet possessed but limited fame, and were indeed almost unknown to any but antiquarian poetical readers. This may in some measure be accounted for from the circumstance of the obscurity which naturally attends upon satire; as the follies which are castigated, and the fashionable vices which are held up to ridicule fade away, the allusions are not so easily understood by a later age, as by that which it was intended to correct. Hall has heightened this obscurity by imitating the elliptical manner of Persius and Juvenal; but perhaps still more by throwing over his compositions the veil of antiquated words and phraseology, which, like his friend Spenser, he seems to have studiously affected. Indeed, following an erroneous opinion, he imagined, that a satire must necessarily be 'hard of conceit, and harsh of style,' he therefore thought proper to apologize for 'too much stooping to the low reach of the vulgar:' and in the Prologue to Book III. he finds it necessary to answer such cavillers as had blamed his plain speaking.

'Satire, as Warton observes, specifically so called, had not its rise among us until the latter end of Elizabeth's reign.' 'For though the long