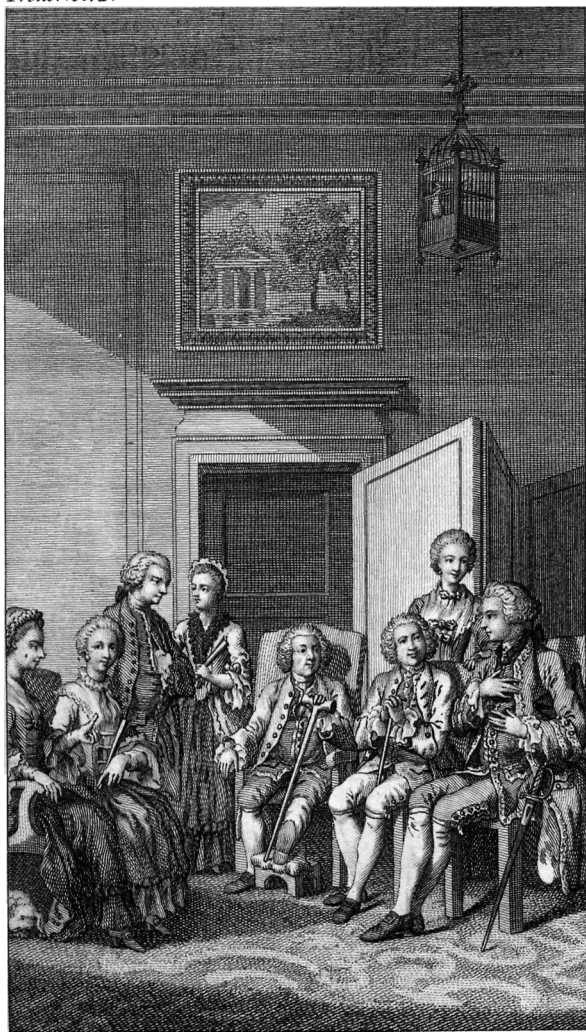


Front. Vol. I.



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James Taylor sculp

CLARISSA.
OR, THE
HISTORY
OF A
YOUNG LADY:
Comprehending
The most Important CONCERNS
OF
PRIVATE LIFE.

By MR. RICHARDSON,
Author of PAMELA and Sir CHARLES GRANDISON.

In EIGHT VOLUMES.

The SIXTH EDITION.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. RIVINGTON, R. BALDWIN, W. JOHNSTON,
S. CROWDER, C. RIVINGTON, T. LOWNDs, T.
DAVIES, J. JOHNSON and J. PAYNE, W. GRIFFIN,
T. BECKET, F. NEWBERRY, T. CADELL, and J.
KNOX.

M.DCC.LXVIII.



S O N N E T

To the AUTHOR of *CLARISSA*.

O Master of the heart! whose magic skill
The close recesses of the Soul can find,
Can rouse, becalm, and terrify the mind,
Now melt with pity, now with anguish thrill ;

Thy moral page while virtuous precepts fill,
Warm from the heart, to mend the Age design'd,
Wit, strength, truth, decency, are all combin'd
To lead our Youth to Good, and guard from Ill.

O long enjoy what thou so well hast won,
The grateful tribute of each honest heart,
Sincere, nor hackney'd in the ways of men ;
At each distressful stroke their true tears run ;
And Nature, unsophisticate by Art,
Owns and applauds the labours of thy pen.



P R E F A C E.

TH E following History is given in a Series of Letters written principally in a double yet separate correspondence ;

Between two young Ladies of virtue and honour, bearing an inviolable friendship for each other, and writing not merely for amusement, but upon the most *interesting* subjects ; in which every private family, more or less, may find itself concerned : And,

Between two Gentlemen of free lives ; one of them glorying in his talents for Stratagem and Invention, and communicating to the other, in confidence, all the secret purposes of an intriguing head and resolute heart.

But here it will be proper to observe, for the sake of such as may apprehend hurt to the morals of Youth, from the more freely written Letters, that the Gentlemen, tho' professed Libertines as to the Female Sex, and making it one of their wicked maxims, to keep no faith with any of the individuals of it, who are thrown into their power, are not, however, either Infidels or Scoffers ; nor yet such as think themselves freed from the observance of those other moral duties which bind man to man.

On the contrary, it will be found, in the progress of the Work, that they very often make such reflections upon each other, and each upon himself and his own actions, as reasonable beings *must* make, who disbelieve not a Future State of Rewards and Punishments, and who one day propose to reform—One of them actually reforming, and by that means giving an opportunity to censure the freedoms which fall from the gay and lighter heart of the other.

And

And yet that other, altho' in unbofoming himfelf to a felect friend, he difcover wickednefs enough to entitle him to general deteftation, preferves a decency, as well in his images, as in his language, which is not always to be found in the works of fome of the moft celebrated modern Writers, whofe fubjects and characters have lefs warranted the liberties they have taken.

In the Letters of the two young Ladies, it is prefumed will be found not only the higheft exercife of a reasonable and *practicable* Friendship, between minds endowed with the nobleft principles of Virtue and Religion, but occasionally interperfed, fuch Delicacy of Sentiments, particularly with regard to the other Sex; fuch inftances of Impartiality, each freely, as a fundamental principle of their friendship, blaming, praifing, and fetting right the other, as are ftrongly to be recommended to the obfervation of the *younger* part (more efpecially) of Female Readers.

The principal of thefe two young Ladies is propofed as an Exemplar to her Sex. Nor is it any objection to her being fo, that fhe is not in all refpects a perfect character. It was not only natural, but it was neceffary, that fhe fhould have fome faults, were it only to fhew the Reader,

der, how laudably she could mistrust and blame herself, and carry to her own heart, divested of self-partiality, the censure which arose from her own convictions, and that even to the acquittal of those, because revered characters, whom no one else would acquit, and to whose much greater faults her errors were owing, and not to a weak or reproachable heart. As far as is consistent with human frailty, and as far as she could be perfect, considering the people she had to deal with, and those with whom she was inseparably connected, she *is* perfect. To have been impeccable, must have left nothing for the Divine Grace and a Purified State to do, and carried our idea of her from woman to angel. As such is she often esteemed by the man whose *heart* was so corrupt, that he could hardly believe human nature capable of the purity, which, on every trial or temptation, shone out in *hers*.

Besides the four principal persons, several others are introduced, whose Letters are characteristic: And it is presumed that there will be found in some of them, but more especially in those of the chief character among the men, and the second character among the women, such strokes of Gaiety, Fancy, and Humour, as will entertain and divert; and at the same time both warn and instruct.

All

All the Letters are written while the hearts of the writers must be supposed to be wholly engaged in their subjects (The events at the time generally dubious): So that they abound not only with critical Situations, but with what may be called *instantaneous* Descriptions and Reflections (proper to be brought home to the breast of the youthful reader); as also with affecting Conversations; many of them written in the dialogue or dramatic way.

“ *Much more* lively and affecting, says one of
“ the principal characters (Vol. VII. p. 73.)
“ must be the Style of those who write in the
“ height of a *present* distress; the mind tortured
“ by the pangs of uncertainty (the Events then
“ hidden in the womb of Fate); *than* the dry,
“ narrative, unanimated Style of a person relating
“ difficulties and dangers surmounted, can
“ be; the relater perfectly at ease; and if himself
“ unmoved by his own Story, not likely
“ greatly to affect the Reader.”

What will be found to be more particularly aimed at in the following Work, is—To warn the Inconsiderate and Thoughtless of the one Sex, against the base arts and designs of specious Contrivers of the other—To caution Parents against the undue exercise of their natural authority

thority over their children in the great article of Marriage—To warn Children against preferring a Man of Pleasure to a Man of Probity, upon that dangerous but too commonly-received notion, *That a reformed Rake makes the best Husband*—But above all, To investigate the highest and most important Doctrines not only of Morality, but of Christianity, by shewing them thrown into action in the conduct of the *worthy* characters; while the *unworthy*, who set those Doctrines at defiance, are condignly, and, as may be said, consequentially, punished.

From what has been said, considerate Readers will not enter upon the perusal of the Piece before them, as if it were designed *only* to divert and amuse. It will probably be thought tedious to all such as *dip* into it, expecting a *light Novel*, or *transitory Romance*; and look upon Story in it (interesting as that is generally allowed to be) as its *sole end*, rather than as a vehicle to the Instruction.

Different persons, as might be expected, have been of different opinions, in relation to the conduct of the Heroine in particular Situations; and several worthy persons have objected to the general Catastrophe, and other parts of the History. Whatever is thought material of these shall be
taken

P R E F A C E.

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taken notice of by way of POSTSCRIPT, at the conclusion of the History; for this Work being addressed to the Public as a History of *Life and Manners*, those parts of it which are proposed to carry with them the force of an Example, ought to be as unobjectible as is consistent with the *design of the whole*, and with *human nature*.



N A M E S

NAMES of the PRINCIPAL PERSONS.

<i>Miss Clarissa Harlowe,</i>	A young Lady of great Beauty and Merit.
<i>Robert Lovelace, Esq;</i>	Her Admirer.
<i>James Harlowe, Esq;</i>	Father of Clarissa.
<i>Mrs. Harlowe,</i>	His Lady.
<i>James Harlowe,</i>	Their only Son.
<i>Arabella,</i>	Their elder Daughter.
<i>John Harlowe, Esq,</i>	Elder Brother of <i>James Harlowe, sen.</i>
<i>Antony Harlowe,</i>	Third Brother.
<i>Roger Solmes, Esq;</i>	{ An Admirer of Clarissa, favoured by her Friends.
<i>Mrs. Hervey,</i>	Half-sister of <i>Mrs. Harlowe.</i>
<i>Miss Dolly Hervey,</i>	Her Daughter.
<i>Mrs. Judith Norton,</i>	{ A Woman of great Piety and Discretion, who had a principal Share in the Education of Clarissa.
<i>Col. Wm. Morden,</i>	A near Relation of the Harlowes.
<i>Miss Howe,</i>	{ The most intimate Friend, Companion, and Correspondent of Clarissa.
<i>Mrs. Howe,</i>	Her Mother.
<i>Charles Hickman, Esq;</i>	An Admirer of Miss Howe.
<i>Lord M.</i>	Uncle to Mr. Lovelace.
<i>Lady Sarah Sadleir,</i>	{ Half-sisters of Lord M.
<i>Lady Betty Lawrance,</i>	
<i>Miss Charl. Montague,</i>	{ Nieces of the same Nobleman.
<i>Miss Patty Montague,</i>	
<i>Dr. Lewen,</i>	A worthy Divine.
<i>Mr. Elias Brand,</i>	A pedantic young Clergyman.
<i>Dr. H.</i>	An humane Physician.
<i>Mr. Goddard,</i>	An honest and skilful Apothecary.
<i>John Belford, Esq;</i>	{ Mr. Lovelace's principal Intimate and Confidant.
<i>Richard Monobray,</i>	
<i>Thomas Doleman,</i>	{ Esqrs. Libertine Friends of Mr. Lovelace.
<i>James Tourville,</i>	
<i>Thomas Belton,</i>	
<i>Mrs. Moore,</i>	{ A Widow, keeping a Lodging-house at Hamstead.
<i>Miss Rawlins,</i>	A notable young Gentlewoman there.
<i>Mrs. Bavis,</i>	A lively young Widow of the same Place.
<i>Mrs. Sinclair,</i>	{ The pretended Name of a private Brothel-keeper in London.
<i>Capt. Tomlinson,</i>	{ The assumed Name of a vile Pander to the Debaucheries of Mr. Lovelace.
<i>Sally Martin,</i>	{ Assistants of, and Partners with, the infamous Sinclair.
<i>Polly Horton,</i>	
<i>Dorcas Wykes,</i>	An artful Servant at the vile House.



THE
HISTORY
OF
CLARISSA HARLOWE.

VOL. I.

LETTER I.

Miss ANNA HOWE, To Miss CLARISSA HARLOWE.

Jan. 10.

I AM extremely concerned, my dearest Friend, for the disturbances that have happened in your Family. I know how it must hurt you to become the subject of the public talk: And yet upon an occasion so generally known, it is impossible but that whatever relates to a young Lady whose distinguished merits have made her the public care, should engage every-body's attention. I long to have the particulars from yourself; and of the usage I am told you receive upon an accident you could not help; and in which, as far as I can learn, the Sufferer was the Aggressor.

Mr. Diggs the Surgeon, whom I sent for at the first hearing of the Rencounter, to enquire, for your

VOL. I.

B

sake,