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The History Of Tom Jones, A Foundling

In Four Volumes

Fielding, Henry

London, 1750

Chap. XI. A short Chapter; but which contains sufficient Matter to affect
the good-natured Reader.

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the joint Weight of many Facts falling upon him together, would be the most likely to crush him; and he watched therefore some such Opportunity as that with which Fortune had now kindly presented him. Lastly, by prevailing with *Thwackum* to conceal the Matter for a Time, he knew he should confirm an Opinion of his Friendship to *Jones*, which he had greatly laboured to establish in Mr. *Allworthy*.

C H A P. XI.

A short Chapter; but which contains sufficient Matter to affect the good-natured Reader.

IT was Mr. *Allworthy*'s Custom never to punish any one, not even to turn away a Servant, in a Passion. He resolved, therefore, to delay passing Sentence on *Jones* till the Afternoon.

The poor young Man attended at Dinner, as usual; but his Heart was too much loaded to suffer him to eat. His Grief too was a good deal aggravated by the unkind Looks of Mr. *Allworthy*; whence he concluded that *Western* had discovered the whole Affair between him and *Sophia*: But as to Mr. *Blifil*'s Story, he had not the least Apprehension; for of much the greater Part he was entirely innocent; and for the Residue, as he had forgiven and forgotten it himself, so he suspected no Remembrance on the other Side. When Dinner was over, and the Servants departed, Mr. *Allworthy* began to harangue. He set forth, in a long Speech, the many Iniquities of which *Jones* had been guilty, particularly those which this Day had brought to Light; and concluded by telling him, 'That un-
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'taking. Fie upon it, young Man! indeed
 'there is scarce any Punishment equal to your
 'Crimes, and I can scarce think myself justifi-
 'able in what I am now going to bestow on
 'you. However, as I have educated you like
 'a Child of my own, I will not turn you naked
 'into the World. When you open this Paper,
 'therefore, you will find something which may
 'enable you, with Industry, to get an honest
 'Livelihood; but if you employ it to worse
 'Purposes, I shall not think myself obliged to
 'supply you farther, being resolved, from this
 'Day forward, to converse no more with you
 'on any Account. I cannot avoid saying,
 'There is no Part of your Conduct which I re-
 'sent more than your ill Treatment of that good
 'young Man (meaning *Blissl*) who hath behaved
 'with so much Tenderness and Honour towards
 'you.'

These last Words were a Dose almost too bitter to be swallowed. A Flood of Tears now gushed from the Eyes of *Jones*, and every Faculty of Speech and Motion seemed to have deserted him. It was some Time before he was able to obey *Allworthy's* peremptory Commands of departing; which he at length did, having first kissed his Hands with a Passion difficult to be affected, and as difficult to be described.

The Reader must be very weak, if, when he considers the Light in which *Jones* then appeared to Mr. *Allworthy*, he should blame the Rigour of his Sentence. And yet all the Neighbourhood, either from this Weakness, or from some worse Motive, condemned this Justice and Severity as the highest Cruelty. Nay, the very Persons who had before censured the good Man for the Kind-
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