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**A Sentimental Journey Through France And Italy**

**Yorick, ...**

**London, 1768**

A Fragment.

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## A FRAGMENT.

29 ——— THE town of Abdera, notwithstanding Democritus lived there trying all the powers of irony and laughter to reclaim it, was the vilest and most profligate town in all Thrace. What for poisons, conspiracies and assassinations—libels, pasquinades and tumults, there was no going there by day—'twas worse by night.

Now, when things were at the worst, it came to pass, that the Andromeda of Euripides being represented at Abdera, the whole orchestra was delighted with it: but of all the passages

passages which delighted them, nothing operated more upon their imaginations, than the tender strokes of nature which the poet had wrought up in that pathetic speech of Perseus,

*O Cupid, prince of God and men, &c.*

Every man almost spoke pure iam-bics the next day, and talk'd of nothing but Perseus his pathetic address—"O Cupid! prince of God and men"—in every street of Abdera, in every house—"O Cupid! Cupid!"—in every mouth, like the natural notes of some sweet melody which drops from it whether it will or no—nothing but "Cupid! Cupid! prince of God and men"—The fire caught—and the whole city, like  
the



the heart of one man, open'd itself  
to Love.

No pharmacopolist could sell one  
grain of helebore—not a single ar-  
mourer had a heart to forge one in-  
strument of death—Friendship and  
Virtue met together, and kiss'd each  
other in the street—the golden age  
return'd, and hung o'er the town of  
Abdera—every Abderite took his  
oaten pipe, and every Abderitish  
woman left her purple web, and  
chastly sat her down and listen'd to  
the song—

'Twas only in the power, says the  
Fragment, of the God whose empire  
extendeth

extendeth from heaven to earth, and  
even to the depths of the sea, to have  
done this,

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*