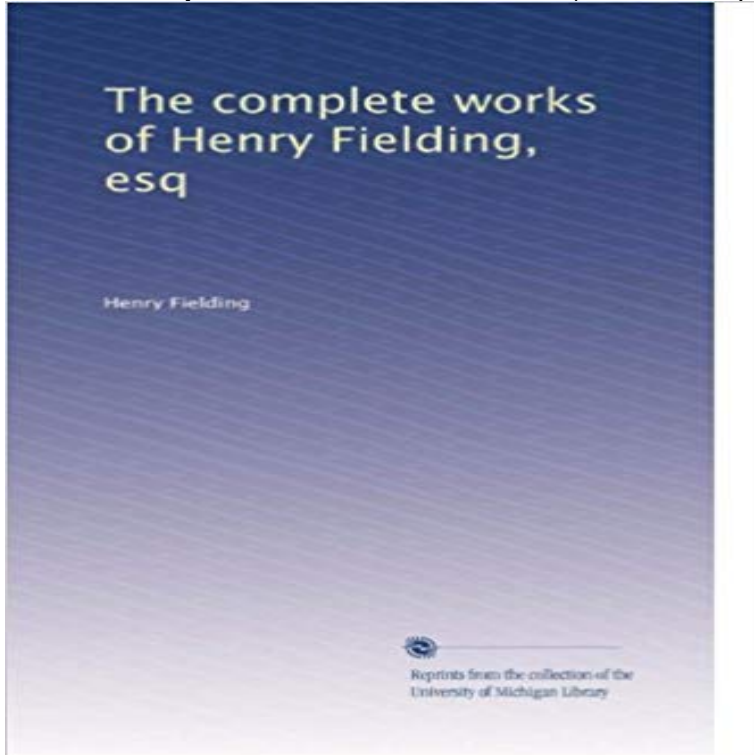


The complete works of Henry Fielding, esq



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated.1903 Excerpt: ... And should any person of fashion in the boxes expose themselves to public notice by any indecent particularities of behaviour; from whom would they receive immediate correction and admonishment, but from the mob who are (for this purpose perhaps) placed over them? Was it not for this tender care of decency in the mob, who knows what spectacles the desire of novelty and distinction would often exhibit in our streets? For let persons be guilty of the highest enormities of this kind, they may meet a hundred people of fashion without receiving a single rebuke. But the mob never fails to express their indignation on all indecencies of this kind: and it is, perhaps, the awe of the mob alone which prevents people of condition, as they call themselves, from becoming more egregious apes than they are, of all the extravagant modes and follies of Europe. Thus, I think, I have fully proved what I undertook to prove. I do not pretend to say, that the mob have no faults; perhaps they have many. I assert no more than this, that they are in all laudable qualities very greatly superior to those who have hitherto, with much injustice, pretended to look down upon them. In this attempt, I may perhaps have given offence to some of the inferior sort, but I am contented with the assurance of having espoused the cause of truth; and in so doing, I am well convinced I shall please all who are really my betters. No. 31. Saturday, April 18, 1752. Qui Bavium nan edit, amet tua carmina, Hcevi.--VIBOIL. He who doth not hate one bad commentator, let him love a worse. Sir,--You are sensible, I believe, that there is nothing in this age more fashionable than to criticise on Shakespeare. I am indeed

told that there are not less than 200 editions of that author, with commentaries, notes, ...

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