CHAPTER IV

SMOLLETT

To the novel of sensibility of Richardson and that of character and humour shaped by Fielding, Tobias Smollett (1721-71) added satiric caricature. In contrast to the great humanity of Fielding, Smollett, for all his brilliance, has a certain waspishness. He seems to good his victims into their entertaining antics. His own temper was irritable, and the frustrations of his life aggravated a natural condition. His sarcasm was unrestrained, and yet perhaps it was an overstrung sensibility which drew him towards ugliness and evil. What seems a sadistic delight in touching the nerves of the reader with horror and pang sprang form an awareness, not too common in his day, of the sheer in humanity of the eighteenth century. His rage was disciplined by humour and he found relief in turning the world to ridicule.

He was born in 1721 and came a good Scottish family but some bitterness occasioned by the indifference of his grand father warped him. He studied medicine in Glasgow, but his heart, like Fielding's, was given to the stage. In 1739 he came to London with a play, the Regicide, in his pocket. But the theatre would have none of him and he was forced to go to sea as a surgeon on board H.M.S. Cumberland, and it so happened was present at Cartagena. However little to his taste this adventure was, it served him well later as a
novelist when he disclosed a new vein of naval & fiction that he was to explore most profitably. But the stark horror of surgery before chloroform, the obscene brutality of life in the floating prisons, the disease and leprous foulness, both moral and physical, might have proved too much for him had he not found a way to insulate his raw susceptibilities by satirical comedy.

On his return to England in 1744 Smollett set up as a doctor on his wife’s fortune, but his instinctive extravagance made him choose Downing Street for his residence, and lavish entertainment soon strained his exiguous means to breaking point. Failing as a doctor, he turned to literature, and in 1748 published Roderick Random.

Where as Richardson had been over fifty, and Fielding thirty five. Smallest was still in his twenties when he wrote his first novel. Roderick Random certainly bears evidence of this in its torrential exuberance of incident and fertile inventiveness, as well as in its harsh judgements and teering malice.

Technically it is modelled on Lesage’s Gil Blas and so belongs to the older picaresque tradition. A series of episodes, told with vigour and vividness, are linked together in the life of the selfish and unprincipled hero, who relate’s them. Smollett ushers us into a disagreeable world in which the commonest emotions spring from malice, envy, spite, cruelty and uncharitableness, while mutual derision form’s the basis of most acquaintanceship; To a far greater
extent than fielding smollett seized on physical peculiarities, on psychological traits that reveal twisted natures, and on any absurdities whatever the nature. His is the art of caricature and its excellence lies in the startling brilliance with which externals are caught. The chief interest in the book is in the picture that it gives, drawn from the personal experience, of the British Navy and the British sailor of the day.

There is no inwardness at all in smollett, only a certain hard, inescapable accuracy which the absence of emotion saves from being consistently horrible. The only really attractive quality about his books is the whimsical humanity that lights up his seadogs - commodore trunnion, Tom Bowling, pipes and Hatchaway. These seadogs, each of them individualized beyond reach of generalization, were something new in fiction, strange marine monsters whose clotted absurdities and racy naval idiom set a fashion in gambolling eccentricity and gruff humour. The first was Tom Bowling. He is Roderick's maternal uncle and rescues the hero from a cold, indifferent grandfather and a horde of hostile, acquisitive cousins. Later deprived of his uncle's guidance, Roderick takes to the road and meets with many adventures at the hands of rogues of various kinds and qualifies as a surgeon's mate in the navy. He is pressed as a common sailor on board the man-of-war. Thunder, and, after suffering much misery and ill-treatment, returns to England. The inevitable gyrations of fortune are at length brought to a happy end by a fantastic recognition
scene, when Roderick finds an unexpected father in the supposed Spaniard, Don Roderigo.

Roderick Random showed such sparkling wit and fecund imagination that many critics attributed it to Fielding. In truth Smollett, except for his grossness which the Victorians would have found intolerable, is a fore runner of Dickens in his exuberance of invention.

His first novel (Roderick Random) was followed by two other successful novels, Pyregrine Pickle (1751) and Humphry Clinker (1768). The last two however, do not show the same power of .......... narration and characterization as does .......... the first. Smollett assigns a moral purpose to the novel, which is to rouse "that generous indignation which ought to animate the reader against the sordid and vicious disposition of the world". The picture of life which he presents in his novels is not a pleasing one. He depicts a word of spite and ill-natured, envy and conceit. Mutual suspicion exists even between friends, Roderick Random he sets out "to represent modest merit struggling with every difficulty to which a friendless orphan is exposed from his own want of experience, as well as from the selfishness, envy malice and base indifference of mankind". In this connection he further says that he has "not deviated from nature in the facts, which are all true in the main, although the circumstances are altered and disguised to avoid personal satire".

The novels of Smollett offer to our view a large, diffused picture. The central position in the picture is occupied by the hero
who attracts our attention unites the incidents, unwind the clue of
the labyrinth, and at last closes the scene, by virtue of his own
importance. The story consist in a series of episodes with no
connection except that they happen to one man. After a long series
of incidents the story comes to a conclusion with the sudden
enrichment and marriage of the hero.

Roderick Random in the story a poor, penniless boy who,
having been forsaken successively by his father and uncle, is left to
find for himself. After a number of mishaps and adventures he is
appointed surgeons mate on a man-of-war. He has horrible
experiences on board the war-ship, is ship wrecked robbed by his
mates and left naked on the shore. Dogged persistently by malice
and misfortune he is at last arrested and cast into prison. But now
his uncle hunts him out secures his release, and takes him abroad
on a trading voyage. Finally he meets his father who has become
fabulously rich. He now goes to marry Narcissa, the beautiful girl
with whom he had fallen in love.

In Peregrine Pickle for his second novel Smollett chose an
English rather than a Scottish hero but in all essentials the formula
is much as before. Pickle could be a blood brother of Roderick Random.
Secondary character's however, are more richly realized than in the
earlier book. The most memorable being a grand old acentric,
commodore Hawser Trunnion, a man so in love with the sea that
he has out flitted his country house to look like a battleship. Common,
Trunnion's riding gallantly off to his wedding to pickled's aunt Grizzle is one of the most richly comic scenes in eighteenth century fiction.

Neither Roderick Random nor Peregrine Pickle; in the novels those names can be said to have much life, though Random, though Random has more than pickley, probably because he is closer to Smallett's own experience. Like his creator, Random is a scot of gentle birth, Neglected and ill treated by his grand father, his father having unaccountably disappeared, he leaves home and goes to London with his old school friend strap. Now his valet, to make his fortune. In London he is cozened and cheated by a succession of rogues, trues to enter the navy as a surgeon's mate but, despite his professional qualifications, finds that entry into the service depends upon the bribing of Admiralty clerks. He becomes instead, the assistant of a french apothecary, is sized by the press gang, menages to prove that he is doctor and so, after all, become surgeon's mate. Like Smollett, he takes part in the Cartagena expedition. For an alleged act of disobedience he is tied to the deck during a battle. He is shipwrecked, robbed left necked on the shore and takes service as footman to a middle aged poetess with whose niece, Narcissa, he falls in love, he is compelled to run a way by the presence of a more prosperous suitor, is kidnapped by smuggler's and taken to France. Where he falls in with strap, now transformed into Monsieur d' Estrapes. They return to London together. Where Random intends to repair his fortune by marrying an heiress. At
bath he meets Narcissa again, but he returns to London penniless and is thrown into a debtor's prison. His uncle Tom bowling, who has been searching for him, obtains his freedom for him, and they go abroad together on a trading voyage, in the course of which they meet a Spanish don, immensely rich, who turns out to be Random's father.

So much for the dry bones of the novel. Its value obviously lies in individual episodes rather than in any cumulative effect, and some of the episodes are very fine indeed, those describing life in the navy and at sea, and fashionable life in London and at Bath especially. They are relentless, savage cartoons inhabited by caricatures.

At the same time one can not deny life to the caricatures: the caricatures is a perfectly legitimate form of character-creation, for the quality we call life in a character comes as much from the passion the another brings to its making as from truth to life, accuracy of observation or psychological consistency. With the last Smollett was not concerned, but he united accuracy of observation with intense passion: the strength of the impression made upon him by the men and women he had observed in life is unerringly bodied forth to the reader in the characters he creates. Some are softened by humour: Tom Bowling is one of these; others, the brutal naval officer captain oakum, for instance, or the foppish captain whiffle, are not: they are, as it were, flung at the reader in terms of the most ferocious
comedy.

However perfunctory his attention to plot, no one ever wrote better narrative than Smollett. The action fairly whips along; invention follows invention in the most dazzling manner; and all is told in a direct prose, stripped muscular. As a panoramic novelist, Smollett has never been surpassed.

"Roderick Random is one of his two best novels, and in a sense it represents his talent at its purest. Peregrine Pickley, judged as a whole, can not be compared with it, yet it contains his best comic character and his finest piece of comedy. In form and manner it follows the earlier book closely, but there is nothing in Roderick Random quite to come up to the retired naval officer Hawser Trunnion, who was plainly conceived in the first instance as a figure of fun and then captured his author's affection's commodore Trunnion thinks, feels, lacks, behaves wholly in terms of his profession, he is the quintessential returned naval officer who, as far as it is possible, lives on shore as though he were still on the ship. His house is garrison, the company sleeps in hammocks, watches are kept, guns fired to welcome guest's aboard. Women are not allowed on premises after dark; the commodore is a misogynist." 29

It is therefore inevitable that he shall be chivved into marriage by Peregrine's aunt Mrs. Grizzle and be hen-packed ever after the greatest comic scene in the novel is the account of Trunnion's setting

29. Allen, p. 67
out for his wedding on horse back. Since he in late a servant is sent to find him.

The valet having ridden something more than a mile, espied the whole troop disposed in a long field, crossing the road obliquely and headed by the bridegroom and his friend Hatch way. Who finding himself hindered way, by a hedge from proceeding farther in the same direction, fired a pistol, and stood over to the other side, making an obtuse angle with the line of his former course, and the rest of the squadron following his example, keeping always in the rear of each other, like a flight of wild geese.

Surprised at this strange method of journeying, the messenger came up, and told the commodore that his lady and her company expected him in the church, where had they had tarried a considerable time, and were beginning to be very uneasy at his delay; therefore desired he would proceed with more expedition. To this message Mr. Trunnion replied,

"Hark ye, brother, do not you see we make all possible speed? Go back and tell those who sent you, that the wind has shifted since we weighed anchor, and that we are obliged to make very short trips in tacking, by reason of the narrowness of the channel: and that as we lie within six pounds of the wind, they must makes some allowance, for variation and leeway." 'Lord, Sir' said the valet, 'what occasion have you to go zigzag in that manner? Do but clap your spurs to your horses, and ride straight
forward, and I will engage you shall be at church porch in less than a quarter of an hour? What right in the wind's eye? Answered the commander; ahey! brother, where did you learn your navigation? Howser Trunnion is not to be taught at this time of day how to lie his course, or keep his own reckoning. And as for you, brother, you know best the trim of your own frigate.  

On this Smollett caps further absurdities of wild invention. The description of Trunnion's death is a rare instance of Smollett's power of pathos: it has always, and rightly, been compared with the death of Falstaff.

Smollett belonged to the glorious company of English hack writers who have turned their hands to anything. Verse, drama, travel, political writing, a treatise on midwifery, translation he translated Cervantes, Le Sage, and Voltaire - and a history of England in many volumes poured from his pen. His novels had to take their chance with the rest, and both his notion of the novel and his crafts-man ship are rudimentary compared with Fielding's. He padded mercilessly and shamelessly, inserting, for instance, into Peregrine Pickle a quite irrelevant story. The Memoirs of a lady of quality which he certainly did not write himself was probably paid to put in, and which takes up more than a hundred and fifty pages. He also turned his travels into fiction, a visit to the continent going into Peregrine Pickle, a tour of England forming the basis of Humry  

31. Ibid. p. - 68
clinker, For him the novel was a branch of journalism, and now here in his fiction is the element of journalism, the sample aim of giving factual information, stronger than in the expedition of Humphry clinker his last novel.

The real interest of his second picaresque novel peregrine pickley lies in the study of his greatest Seadog of them all, peregrine's god father, commodore Hawser Trunnion, who.

"Does not live like any other Christian Landsman, but keeps garrison in his house as if he were in sight of his enemies and makes his servants turn out in the night. Watch and watch, as he calls it, all the year round. His habitation is defended by a ditch over which he has laid draw bridge, and planed his courtyard with peteroes continually loaded with shot, under the direction of Mr. Hatch way".\(^{31}\)

The commodore's vocabulary matches his lair and illustrates smollett's interest in suitting speech to character. Trunnion is a confirmed misogynist but his resistance in this last respect is overcome by the determined assaults of Miss Grizzle, Perry's aunt, and he resigns him self to matrimony.

Well since it must be so, I think we must even grapple, But'tis a hard case that a fellow of my years should be compelled d'ye see, to beat up windward all the rest of his life, against currents of his inclination.

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31. Nell, p. 77
"It is the commodore who spoils peregrine, delighting in the boy's practical jokes and wayward egoism. In the scene where Trunnion is on his deathbed, Smollett rises above his customary levity and wrings pathos out of the Seaman's speech".32

"Swab the spray from your bowsprit, my good lad, and coil up your sprits. Many a better man has foundered before he has made half my way; though I trust, by the mercy of God. I shall be sure in port in a very few glasses, and fast moored in a most blessed riding; for my good friend Jolter hath overhauled the journal of my sins, and by the observation he hath taken of the state of my soul. I hope I shall happily conclude my voyage and be brought up in the altitude of heaven".33

"His epitaph is a fitting commentary not only on Trunnion's life but on the whole naval tradition of Great Britain.

Here lies
founded in a fathom and a half
the shell of
Hawser Trunnion, Esq.
formerly in command of a squadron
In his majesty's service.
Who broached to, at five p.m. Oct. X.
In the year of his age.
Threescore and Nineteen.

32. Ibid, P. 77
33. Ibid, p. 78
He kept his guns always loaded
And his tackle ready manned.
And never showed his poop to the enemy
except when he took her in tow;
But
His shot being expanded
His match burnt out
And his upper works decayed
He was sunk
By death's superior weight of mental
Nevertheless
He will be weighted again
All the Great Day,
His rigging refitted,
And his timbers repaired,
And with one broad side.
Make his adversary,
Strike in his turn.\(^{34}\)

Smollett followed up his success with *peregrine pickle by the Adventures of Ferdinand count Fathom* (1753). This is the story of an unmitigated Villain, son of a camp, Follower in Marlborough's army, who takes the title of count without having any claim to it. Endowed with talents and adroitness, but with no spark of honour

\(^{34}\) Ibid, P. 78
or decency, he is received and brought up in the family of the German count Melville and he repays benevolence by attempting to beguile the count's daughter into marriage. When this fail she organizes a series of theft on the family. Using the daughter's of maid as a confederate. Fathom, passes from fraud to fraud and seduction in repulsive, succession. He betrays Renaldo, the son of his benefactor, and attempt's to seduce Monimia, the woman Renaldo is about to marry. Fathom is finally detected in his crimes and imprisoned but an unconvincing repentance saves him from his proper deserts.

The criminal biography awed its inspiration to fielding's Jonathan wild, and written in a tone of caustic irony, makes no attempt to gain sympathy for the pseudo-hero, who, mockingly indifferent to his own egotism, invariably betrays those who trust him. Certain incidents in the book-such as fathom's experience of terror when he is lost in the great gloomy forest, and the macabre episode of the murder that follows, and Renaldo's meeting Monimia's shade in the tomb-are of interest in anticipating later romanticism. They have a sombre magnificence which might have made smollett, had he lived longer, a formidable contributor to the new Gothic terror novel of the next decade.

His next important work was the adventures of Sir Launcelot Greaves, which appeared serially in 1763. All the familiar ingredient's of smollett novel, nautical imagery, salty sailor terms, cruel caricatures
and ludicrous situations are present in this story of an eighteenth
century Don Quixote which is at the same time an attack on religious
and political humbug.

Smollett's later years were made wretched by financial
worries, literary drudgery, the death of his daughter, and a general
sense of failure. He left England for a time, and on his return went
on a tour of his home land in 1766. This excursion gave him material
for his last novel - the mildest and mellowest - Humpry Clinker
(1768). The book was finished in Italy, where he had gone for his
health. Smollett died at Monte Nero near Leghorn in 1771. Possibly
the agreeable climate and lovely prospects softened his asperity of
temper and subdued his caustic wit, inducing a serenity a seventy
which enabled, him, at last to view the world with slightly more
toleration. Humpry clinker is written in the form of a diary of tour
consisting largely of letters sent by the principal travellers to their
friends. The method is used not to analyze feeling, as in Richardson,
but to bring out the humour of conflicting points of view. The same
scenes are described by different characters with a comic disparity
of judgement.

Smollett's interest lies in human oddity and eccentricity.
Richardson has his eye fixed on inner consciousness, smollett on
odd and uncommon behaviour. He derives all the amusement he can
from the human spectacle. In vain shall we go to him for a philosophy
or an interpretation of life. He is concerned with the outer surface of
life, and not with the inner reality.

His novel Humphry Clinker presents an account of Mathew Bramble's journey, which is based on a real journey undertaken by Smollett. The story of Humphy Clinker is as following.

Square Mathew Bramble is a basically kind, if disillusioned, man, whose temper is sorely tried by persistent attacks of gout. Although he has little faith in the honesty or intelligence of doctors, he decides to take their advice and visit Bath, where the waters are reputed to have healing qualities. Accordingly, he sets forth for that elegant city accompanied by his starchy maiden sister, Miss Tabitha Bramble (who hopes to catch a fine husband at the resort), and by Winifred Jenkins, Tabitha's maid servant.

Also accompanying the Brambles on their expedition are Mr. Bramble's niece and nephew, Lydia and Jerry Melford, pleasant young people and wards of the old gentle man. Mr. Bramble hopes that the journey will make Lydia forget the strolling actor whom she fell in love with at boarding school. Jerry Melford hopes some day to find and fight a duel with the actor who has wronged him. But so far the opportunity has not presented itself.

On the way to Bath, the actor, who goes under the name of George Wilson, present himself, in the disguise of a Jewish eyeglass peddler, to Mr. Bramble. He manages to disclose his true identity briefly to the love-smitten Lydia, but they are interrupted and Lydia asks Winifred Jenkins to follow her swain and find out his true
identity. Winfred does so, but she is so muddle-headed that the
forgets his real name before she has a chance to divulge it to Lydia.
All she remembers is that the actor told her that he was true gentile
man who hoped someday to court Lydia in a more appropriate style.

When the group finally arrives at Bath, Tabitha sets out to
find a husband, while her brother Mathew samples the supposedly
miraculous waters and finds them merely filthy and ill-smelling.

Bramble's disillusionment with the waters and Lydia's
patent unhappiness over her lost actor cause the party to leave Bath
for London. In route to London, however, their coach is upset, and
there is fracas between Tabitha Bramble and the square's servant
over Tabitha's lapdog, which has bitten the servant's hand. At his
sister's imperious command Bramble must dismiss not only his servant
but the coach man as well who Tabitha feels was responsible for
upsetting the carriage.

To replace the clumsy postillion, Mathew Bramble hires a
homely, ragged, shirtless youth named Humphry Clinker since
Clinker's condition shock's miss Bramble, squire Bramble gives him
a guinea to buy some respectable clothes before he can assume his
new duties.

In London, squire Bramble discovers that Clinker is
preaching methodist sermons. This he regards as unsemely behaviour
in a servant. Tabitha and her maid however, are entranced by the
lad's religiosity, and they beg Mathew Bramble to permit him to
continue his sermonizing.

When Clinker is arrested and jailed on a false charge of being a brigand (the charge is made by a professional in former, him self a former convict) his preaching impresses even the Jailer, and he makes converts of some of his fellow prisoners. Squire Bramble manages so find the man who had been robbed and whose evidence clears Clinker of any guilt. Clinker is released and contigious his highly successful preaching.

After visiting the famous vauxhall Gardens the family leaves London so journey north to Scotland. At Scarborough, Bramble hires a bathing machine a small cart rolled down the beach to the water in which he can change his clothes in privacy. The squire plunges nude into the surf which turns out to be so cold that he cries out in shock. Hearing his master’s cries Humphry assumes he is drowning and plunges into the ocean to rescue him. He drags the nude squire to the shore where Bramble is profoundly embarrassed by the crowd of spectators that has gathered.

In Durham, the party meets a gaunt, middle-aged Scots lieutenant named obadiah Lismahago. A sad faced, lantern Jawed man, he entertains, the Brambles with tales of his exploit among the north American Indians. The ex-army officer captivates Tabitha Bramble, and even her normally misanthropic brothers enjoys the company of the tough, proud, lieutenant Lismahago mean while Tabitha’s simple minded maid, Winfred Jenkins, find’s herself falling
in love with the loyal, mild-mannered Humphry Clinker.

Eventually the party reaches Edinburgh, where they are royally entertained every where. But the squire realizes that his niece has still not forgotten her actor suitor, George Wilson, when she faints in the street at the sight of some one who looks like the missing man. Setting back towards England again, the party is rejoined by lieutenant lismahago, who once more becomes the object of Tabitha's amorous attentions. He helps jerry melford rescue the women when the coach is upset in a river, but the squire is trapped in the coach and is in danger of drowning until Humphry, by heroic effort, manages to free him and bring him to safety.

While resting at the local inn until the coach can be repaired, Bramble meets an old college acquaintance named Dennison, now a prosperous local gentleman farmer, Dennison addresses Bramble as Lloyd, a name that the squire once adopted for legal reason's for a shrot time. When Humphry Clinker hears the name, he becomes very excited and shows the squire certain papers he has always carried with him proving that he is Bramble's illegitimate (offspring). Bramble's welcomes him as his son and clarifies the matter before the whole group. Poor winifred is afraid that Humphry will put on airs and refuse to have anything to do with her, now that he has been established as the square's son. But Humphry remains simple and unspoiled.

Squire Bramble is again surprised when he learns that the
mysterious actor who has been pursuing his niece, Lydia, is in reality his old friend Dennison's son. The young man had run away from home to become a strolling player only because his father wanted to force him into a marriage he detested because he knew squire Bramble only as Lloyd Dennison had not realized that the Lydia his son had spoken of so glowingly, was the niece of his old friend. Now with all complications cleared up, Lydia and George are at last united. A triple wedding follows, for Tabitha manages to get lieutenant lismahago to propose to her, and Humpry Clinker proposes to winifred Jenkins. With all his friend's and relatives married of, there is nothing further for squire Bramble to do but to return to the comfort of his own home, Brambleton Hall, to argue with his doctor and reflect on his past adventures.

Smollett inserted in Humphry Clinker a fancy sketch of himself at home at Monmouth House, Chelsea, where he lived and worked from 1752 till his visit to Italy in 1763). Jerry Melford describes how he was taken down by Dick Ivy to see Mr S. and his "assembly of Grubs," and found him living on the skirts of the town, where "every Sunday his house is open to all unfortunate brothers of the quill, whom he treats with beef, pudding, and potatoes, port, punch, and Calvert's entire butt beer." "At two in the afternoon, I found myself one of ten messmates seated at table; and I question if the whole kingdom could produce such another assembly of originals." Mr S. gives this crew of oddities every chance of showing off their
several talents; in short, he puts them through their paces, unperturbed by their lack of respect for himself. Dick explains to the bewildered Mr Melford that S. himself is an enentric, who befriends these sorry creatures, though "he knows them to be bad men, as well as bad writers, "and is likely to be disappointed if he thinks he can make them serve either his profit or his ambition. S., he goes on, brought a hornets' nest about his ears by assuming the ditorship of a critical journal, and, strange to say, is perfectl aware that the persons whom he has just been entertaining are the authors of most of the abuse with which he has been assailed, in papers, poems, and pamphlets. He is a man who does not know the value of money, and whose pride is gratified by the homage of these literary retainers. Dick, however, cannot persuade his friend that this is a fair view of the case, and Mr Melford sums it up thus for the benefit of his correspondent: "By all accounts, S. is not without weakness and caprice; but he is certainly good-humoured and civilized: nor do I find that there is anything overbearing, cruel, or implacable in his disposition." Dr Carlyle, however, bears witness that Smollett really was unkind enough to entertain himself and his friends with the queer foibles of his literary myrmidons.

But (Smollett's life during these years was not all idyll or all amusement. He was the slave of the booksellers, although the overseer of inferior slaves; and he had good reason for making the rich bookseller Birkin, otherwise not unkindly portrayed, in Humphry
Clinker, threaten the joker at his expense with writs and indictments, since the poor devil was after all a writer in his own pay. That Smollett produced nothing of first-class quality between his first two novels and his last was due to the every lasting drudgery to which an irregular income and spendthrift habits condemned him. He is continually writing to his friends in some such phrase as:

"I must infallibly find 50% in a few days in order to maintain myself in any sort of tranquillity." The value of his wife's West Indian property went steadily down, and the income was often behindhand. Smollett received two thousand pounds for his History of England; not bad pay, but subject to various deductions. His middleman profits, when he had paid his underlings and sold a work to the booksellers, could never has been princely. In 1763 things had reached a crisis. Smollett was labouring under misfortune and mortification. The North Briton had killed The Briton. He was in band repute with all parties. Now his health broke down, and he received a blow from which he never recovered in the death of his daughter and only child. The stricken man "gave up all connexion with the Critical Review, and every other literary system," and quitted England.\(^34\)

"In this way Humphry Clinker presents a refinement of the picaresque adventure tale, for although the group travel all over England and Scotland, their adventures are credible and are not as loosely strung together as usual."\(^35\)