

**FEMALE QUIXOTISM: EXHIBITED
IN THE ROMANTIC OPINIONS AND
EXTRAVAGANT ADVENTURES OF
DORCASINA SHELDON. IN THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. III; PP. 1-226**

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Female Quixotism: Exhibited in the Romantic Opinions and Extravagant Adventures of Dorcasina Sheldon. In Three Volumes. Vol. III; pp. 1-226 by Tabitha Tenney

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*Miss Stanley's surprise at the disaster of John
Brown and Zaccarius—Page 33.*

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Or, the Extravagant Adventures of
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VOL. III.



Page 110.

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DORCASINA SHELDON.

FELIX QUEM FACIUNT ALIENA PERICULA
CAUTUM.—In plain English,
*Learn to be wise by others harm,
And you shall do full well.*

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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PUBLISHED BY GEORGE CLARK.

D. HOOTON, PRINTER.

1841.

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FEMALE QUIXOTISM.

CHAPTER I.

ABOUT three years after Mr. Cumberland's unsuccessful attempt upon Dorcasina, Harriot Stanly received a pressing invitation from an intimate boarding school acquaintance, who was lately married, to pass the winter with her in Philadelphia. As she was fond of the city, and never had been there except a few days at a time, since she left school, the request was highly gratifying to her. Her parents knowing the lady to be perfectly discreet, amiable and polite, and willing to gratify their beloved daughter, cheerfully consented to her accepting her friend's invitation; though they were sensible they should severely feel the privation of her company.

Before her departure she paid a visit to Dorcasina, whom she found engaged in, and exceedingly delighted with a new novel. "Have you read it, Harriot?" asked,

she eagerly. "No," replied Harriot, "I never have read a single novel in my life." "Never read a novel!" exclaimed Dorcasina with astonishment. Poor girl I really pity you. You know not how much exquisite pleasure you have missed. To read the suspense, the hope, the despair, the distraction, the interesting situations, the joy, the tumult, and the bliss of faithful lovers, according as the little deity was propitious or otherwise, has been the delight of my life; and it has been my supreme wish and expectation to realize the tender and delightful scenes, so well described in these enchanting books."

"If I may be allowed," replied Harriot, "to form an opinion by the little I have observed of life, and by what I have been told of novels, they are seldom natural; but colour every thing much too highly, and represent characters and situations which never have existed." "Your incredulity, my dear, is not surprising, since it arises from your ignorance." I would advise you, however, to remain in it no longer, but to seek instruction, improvement and delight, in the perusal of these inestimable volumes. Why, you will be laughed at in Philadelphia, and set down as a person destitute of all taste and re-