

**THE VICAR OF
WAKEFIELD. VOL. I**

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The Vicar of Wakefield. Vol. I by Oliver Goldsmith

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OLIVER GOLDSMITH

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THE
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THE
VICAR OF WAKEFIELD.

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BY
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*Being a Facsimile Reproduction of the First
Edition published in 1766.*

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

AUSTIN DOBSON,

AND A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL LIST OF EDITIONS OF "THE VICAR
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AND ABROAD.

LONDON :
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1885.



Figure 1. Relationship between S and N.

PREFACE.

THE Vicar of Wakefield was first published in March, 1766, by Francis Newbery, of Paternoster Row, nephew to John Newbery, "the philanthropic bookseller in St. Paul's churchyard." There are several contemporary accounts of the circumstances connected with its entry into the world, each differing from the rest, though rather in details than in essentials. The earliest of these in point of date is to be found in the volume published by Mrs. Piozzi in 1786, under the title of Anecdotes of the late Samuel Johnson, LL.D., during the last Twenty Years of his Life [i.e. from 1764 to 1784.] For the greater part of this period Mrs. Piozzi was the wife of Johnson's friend Thrale. At pp. 119-20 she says:—

"I have forgotten the year, but it could scarcely I think be later than 1765 or 1766, that he [Johnson] was called abruptly from our house after dinner, and returning in about three hours, said, he had been with an enraged author, whose landlady pressed him for payment within doors, while the bailiffs beset him without; that he was drinking himself drunk with Madeira to drown care, and fretting over a novel which when finished was to be his whole fortune; but he could not get it done for distraction, nor could he step out of doors to offer it to sale. Mr. Johnson therefore set away the bottle, and went to the bookseller, recommending the performance,