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THE STOLEN CHILD: A TALE
OF THE TOWN, FOUNDED ON
A CERTAIN INTERESTING FACT**

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The Library of Romance. The Stolen Child: A Tale of the Town, Founded on a Certain Interesting Fact by John Galt & Leitch Ritchie

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JOHN GALT & LEITCH RITCHIE

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EDITED

BY LEITCH RITCHIE.

THE STOLEN CHILD.

BY JOHN GALT, ESQ.

PHILADELPHIA:

CAREY, LEA AND BLANCHARD.

1833.

THE
STOLEN CHILD.

A Tale of the Town,

FOUNDED ON

A CERTAIN INTERESTING FACT.

BY JOHN GALT, ESQ.

AUTHOR OF THE AYRESHIRE LEGATRES, ANNALS OF THE PARISH,
LAWRIE TOD, ETC.

PHILADELPHIA:
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PREFACE.

THE object of this work is to describe the expression of natural feeling in situations not common; yet the story is founded on fact, and more ingenuity has, in consequence, been necessarily exerted to conceal circumstances than would have been requisite had the tale been entirely derived from invention.

As in all the works of the Author, he has endeavoured to give portraits in his principal characters, and he does not think he has failed in the likenesses in this volume, though the public may have a different opinion, not knowing the originals.

The incidents may be fictitious—they are not intended to be altogether so; and certainly some attention will be paid to ascertain, hereafter, how far criticism may be correct in its views concerning them.

Many years ago, when examining the Elgin marbles with the late Mr West, it was the opinion of that eminent artist that they were imitations of natural subjects, and he thought the cartoons of Raphael of the same description.

This opinion, in unison with an inference drawn from the works of Homer and Shakspeare, convinced the Author that he could follow no better rule than the president himself had deduced. He has done so, and it has been some gratification to have heard gentlemen express themselves convinced of the fact from his productions, even when they could not trace any adventures of the originals. These he always used, as in the present case, but as models, and placed them in situations which were likely to call out the latent biases of their characters.

J. G.

March 26th.

THE
STOLEN CHILD.

PART I.

THE
STOLEN CHILD.

CHAPTER I.

It is not requisite to tell when Mr Mordant, the barrister, flourished; few of his years and of his age promised to excel him in ability; all his friends looked forward to his attainment of the most splendid eminences of the profession; and he was not more admired for his talents than beloved for his virtues. The only fault that could be ascribed to him was an occasional absence of mind, which wiped out from his memory impressions which to others would have been indelible.

He married early in life a lady to whom he was as much attached as it was possible for an ambitious man to be; and to his studies he was devoted. He had no enjoyment but in her company, out of his library, and in it he was wholly absorbed in the most recondite researches of the law. With her the cup of domestic felicity could hold no more; but in the long bright vista of his professional career he saw before him every thing to stir emulation, and he studied in the lives of his predecessors those incidents in their conduct crowned with renown and success.