

**THE LIFE AND OPINIONS  
OF TRISTRAM SHANDY,  
GENTLEMAN, VOL. V**

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The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman, Vol. V by Laurence Sterne

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**LAURENCE STERNE**

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GENTLEMAN, VOL. V**



THE  
L I F E  
A N D  
O P I N I O N S  
O F  
TRISTRAM SHANDY,  
GENTLEMAN.

*Dixery ſi quid fortè jocoſus, hoc mihi juris  
Cum venia dabis.*— HOR.

*—Si quis calumniatur levius eſſe quam deceat theo-  
logum, aut mordacius quam deceat Chriſtia-  
num—non Ego, ſed Democritus dixit.*—  
ERASMUS.

V O L. V.

L O N D O N:  
Printed for T. BECKET and P. A. DEHONDT,  
in the Strand. M DCC LXII.



To the Right Honourable

J O H N,

Lord Viscount SPENCER.

MY LORD,

I Humbly beg leave to offer you these two Volumes; they are the best my talents, with such bad health as I have, could produce:— had providence granted me a larger stock of either, they had been a much more proper present to your Lordship.

## DEDICATION.

I beg your Lordship will forgive me, if, at the same time I dedicate this work to you, I join Lady SPENCER, in the liberty I take of inscribing the story of *Le Fever* in the sixth volume to her name; for which I have no other motive, which my heart has informed me of, but that the story is a humane one.

*I am,*

*My Lord,*

*Your Lordship's*

*Most devoted,*

*And most humble Servant,*

LAUR. STERNE.



*L. Sterne*  
T H E

LIFE and OPINIONS

O F

TRISTRAM SHANDY, Gent.

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C H A P. I.

**I**F it had not been for those two mettlesome tits, and that madeap of a postilion, who drove them from Stilton to Stamford, the thought had never entered my head. He flew like lightning—there was a slope of three miles and a half—we scarce touched the ground—the motion was most rapid—most impetuous—'twas communicat-

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B

ed

ed to my brain—my heart partook of it  
 —By the great God of day, said I,  
 looking towards the sun, and thrusting  
 my arm out of the fore-window of the  
 chaise, as I made my vow, “I will  
 lock up my study door the moment I  
 get home, and throw the key of it nine-  
 ty feet below the surface of the earth,  
 into the draw-well at the back of my  
 house.”

The London waggon confirmed me in  
 my resolution: it hung tottering upon  
 the hill, scarce progressive, drag'd—  
 drag'd up by eight *heavy beasts*——“by  
 main strength!—quoth I, nodding—  
 but your betters draw the same way—  
 and something of every bodies!——  
 O rare!”

Tell me, ye learned, shall we for ever be adding so much to the *bulk*—so little to the *stock*?

Shall we for ever make new books, as apothecaries make new mixtures, by pouring only out of one vessel into another?

Are we for ever to be twisting, and untwisting the same rope? for ever in the same track—for ever at the same pace?

Shall we be destined to the days of eternity, on holy-days, as well as working-days, to be shewing the *relics of learning*, as monks do the *relics of their saints*—without working one—one single miracle with them?