

subtler and profounder work than 'Pamela'. Clarissa, the virtuous, beautiful talented younger daughter of the wealthy Harlowes, is manipulated from a position of virtue and fortune to one in which she is despised and rejected. She becomes an almost Christ like figure of suffering servant. She is maneuvered into saint-hood by a cunningly woven mess of circumstance which seems always until almost the very end to allow the possibility of escape back into the world of lost property. She is given the appearance of guilt without real guilt. In the end, when public opinion seems to have disposed of her for ever, she rises in death from her degradation to shine on high in glorious resurrection. Her mental condition is dramatically visualised through her continued correspondence with her friend Anne Howe. Letters reveal not only her

character but also the character of Lovelace. Lovelace's letters to his friend Bedford are preposterous though showing him as they do congratulating himself on being a rake.

"Humphrey Clinker"
Smollett's last novel combines two fictional traditions with grace and mastery. The first is that of the epistolary novel. This form is instrumental in the portrayal of characters. We learn, for instance, much about the character of the relatively minor figure Winifred Jenkins from the malapropisms strewn throughout her letters. More important is the care with which different and sometimes opposite points of view can be explored through letters. Thus Matthew Bramble's clear-sighted, level-headed view of the snobbery and affectation of Bath Society is cleverly juxtaposed against his