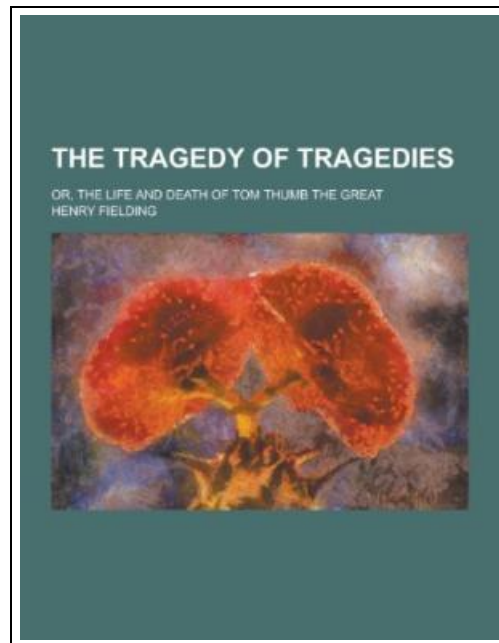


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THE TRAGEDY OF TRAGEDIES; OR, THE LIFE AND DEATH OF TOM THUMB THE GREAT



Theclassics.us, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1918 edition. Excerpt: . and at the end all the characters fall into line and slaughter one another. In the Tom Thumb of 1730 the fatalities had included the Ghost of Gaffer Thumb, killed by Grizzle, but in the final version this amusing bit of action was omitted. Since the days of Elizabeth the English had taken vast delight in violent death and the uproar of stage battles. In fact, Fielding s ending might have been suggested by the series of deaths catalogued by the Ghost at the close of The Spanish Tragedy. In the tragedy of the heroic type a large proportion of the Dramatis Personae died on stage¹; in Cleomenes, which Fielding mentions in his last foot-note as having an especially charming and bloody catastrophe, Dryden puts to death five characters within the narrow limits of three pages. As for stage battles, they were innumerable; in the heroic plays armies are always marching and countermarching, and the drums and trumpets are seldom quiet for long. The gusto with which stage directions for battles were put into practice may be judged from Addison s comment in number 42 of The Spectator-- I should likewise be glad if we imitated the French in banishing from our stage the noise of drums, trumpets, and huzzas, which is sometimes so great that when there is a battle in the Haymarket theatre, one may hear it as far as Charing Cross. The characters of the heroic play are so easily...



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