

himself, and had learned to sympathize with the persecuted. The Scotch were very angry with him for the part he took in the Union ; but that did not prevent his doing justice, in his history, to their long struggles for ecclesiastical independence ; and religion never comes across him in his novels,—some of them quite loose enough,—but he has always a good word to say in its behalf. He was no very profound theologian : Friday, in the dialogue parts of “Crusoe,” is nearly as subtile a divine as his master ; and when poor Olivia Primrose instances, as a proof of her large acquirements in controversy, and her consequent ability of converting Squire Thornhill, that she had read all the “Religious Courtship,”—another of Defoe’s works,—we at once agree that the worthy Doctor, her father, did quite right in sending her off to “help her mother in making the gooseberry pie.” Swift, clergyman as he was, manifested, however, a very different spirit from that of Defoe : in proportion as he knew more he reverenced less ; and there is perhaps nothing in our literature more essentially profane than his essay on the “Mechanical Operation of the Spirit,” and his “Tale of a Tub.” Richardson, no doubt, deemed himself a friend to virtue and religion. He patronized both after a sort ; and many good ladies and clergymen were moved, in consequence, to patronize him ; and yet, as Vinet pointedly says of the general literature of France in that age, his “very morality was in fact immoral.” We know not whether we would not give “Tom Jones” as readily into the hands of a young person as the virtuously written “Pamela.” There is more of a wholesome, generous, unselfish spirit about the scapegrace, than in the denure, designing girl, who, after behaving herself well for a time, sets her cap to catch her master, and is at length rewarded with a fine house, a fine coach, and Mr Booby. And yet Fielding, like his hero, *was* a sad scapegrace. He had a respect for what he deemed religion. We see it in his novels even. Of the few thoroughly