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PRIDE
AND
PREJUDICE
BY
JANE AUSTEN





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EVERYMAN,
I WILL GO WITH
THEE,
& BE THY GUIDE
IN THY MOST NEED
TO GO BY THY SIDE



EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY
EDITED BY ERNEST RHYS



FICTION

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
R. BRIMLEY JOHNSON

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ROMANCE



IN TWO STYLES OF BINDING, CLOTH,
FLAT BACK, COLOURED TOP, AND
LEATHER, ROUND CORNERS, GILT TOP.

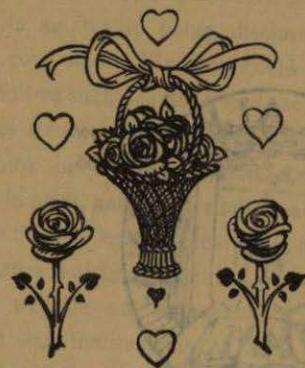
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TALE
WHICH
HOLDETH
CHILDREN
FROM PLAY
& OLD MEN
FROM THE
CHIMNEY
CORNER

A TALE
WHICH
HOLDETH
CHILDREN
FROM PLAY
& OLD MEN
FROM THE
CHIMNEY
CORNER
BY SIR PHILIP SIDNEY

PRIDE &
PREJUDICE
BY JANE
AUSTEN



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EDITOR'S NOTE

In a letter to her sister, dated January 29, 1823, Miss Austen tells how *Pride and Prejudice*, "her own darling child," arrived, and was read aloud to a friend without its authorship being disclosed. "She was amused, poor soul. *That* she could not help, you know, with two such people to lead the way; but she really does seem to admire Elizabeth. I must confess that I think her as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print, and how I shall be able to tolerate those who do not like *her* at least I do not know."

Again, after noticing a misprint, she says—"There might as well be no suppers at Longburn; but suppose it was the remains of Mrs. Bennett's old Meryton habits."

The following passage from another letter gives a remarkable insight into her vivid imagination:—"My brother and I went to the exhibition in Spring Gardens. It was not thought a good collection, but I was very well pleased, particularly with a small portrait of Mrs. Bingley, excessively like her. I went in hopes of seeing one of her sister, but there was no Mrs. Darcy. Perhaps, however, I may find her in the great exhi-

bition. . . . Mrs. Bingley is exactly herself—size, shape, face, features, and sweetness! There never was a greater likeness. She is dressed in a white gown with green ornaments, which convinces me of what I had always supposed—that green was a favourite colour with her. I daresay Mr. D. will be in yellow.”

Of the minor characters, she told her family that “Kitty Bennett was satisfactorily married to a clergyman near Pemberley, while Mary attained nothing higher than one of her uncle Philip’s clerks, and was content to be considered a star in the society of Meryton.”

R. BRIMLEY JOHNSON.

Pride and Prejudice, written between October, 1796, and August, 1797, first published in 1813, and a second edition the same year, third edition 1817; Sense and Sensibility, written in its present form between November, 1797, and 1798, though a portion was extracted from an earlier manuscript, in the form of letters, entitled “Elinor and Marianne,” first published in 1811, second edition 1813; Northanger Abbey, written during 1798, and first published in 1818; Mansfield Park, written between 1811 and 1814, and first published in 1814; second edition in 1816; Emma, written between 1811 and 1816, and first published in 1816; Persuasion, written between 1811 and 1816, and first published in 1818. In this edition the novels are printed from the last editions revised by the author, certain obvious misprints, some of which do not occur in the earlier editions, being corrected. All such corrections are indicated by the words being enclosed in square brackets.



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.

Chapter I.

IT is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters.

“My dear Mr Bennet,” said his lady to him one day, “have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?”

Mr Bennet replied that he had not.

“But it is,” returned she; “for Mrs Long has just been here, and she told me all about it.”

Mr Bennet made no answer.

“Do not you want to know who has taken it?” cried his wife impatiently.

“You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it.”

This was invitation enough.

“Why, my dear, you must know, Mrs Long says that Netherfield is taken by a young man of large fortune from the north of England; that he came