Cultivating The Human Faculties James Barry 1741 1806 And The Society Of Arts Author Susan Bennett Apr 2009
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The novel opens with Aunt Polly scrounging the house in search of her nephew, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered with jam, and prepares to give him a whipping. Tom cries out theatrically, “Look behind you!” and when Aunt Polly turns, Tom escapes over the fence. After Tom is gone, Aunt Polly reflects sadly on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper, where his mother tells him how much she has been talking about him. Aunt Polly has decided that Tom must skip school that afternoon and work in the fields. Tom’s uncle says that there is no coffee left, but Aunt Polly insists it is still on the shelf, though half consumed. Tom’s brother Sid, who is but ten, is told to fetch the coffee. Tom, already drunk on beer, orders Sid to do his bidding.

Tom goes out of the house into the street, where a man is standing, smoking a pipe and whistling. Tom approaches and asks the man if he will be skipped school that afternoon and sent to the fields. The man agrees and Tom soon returns home, drunk and victorious, his shirt now in tatters. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival, Tom Blankenship, are asked to help in the fields. Tom, drunk and arrogant, challenges the newcomer all the way home.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dirty clothes and resolves to make him work the next day, Saturday, as punishment.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to wash the fence. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of mixed liquor. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.