



THE 17th AND 18th CENTURIES

9. Laurence Sterne

Laurence Sterne

***The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* (1759)**

Widow Wadman  35

The narrator offers the reader the opportunity to describe Mrs Wadman, the widow with whom uncle Toby has fallen in love.

5 TO conceive this right, – call for pen
and ink – here’s paper ready to your
hand. – Sit down, Sir, paint her to
your own mind – as like your mistress
as you can – as unlike your wife as
your conscience will let you – ’tis all
one to me – please but your own fancy
in it.

– Was ever any thing in Nature
10 so sweet! – so exquisite!

– Then, dear Sir, how could my
uncle *Toby* resist it?

Thrice happy book! thou wilt have
one page, at least, within thy covers,
15 which MALICE¹ will not blacken², and
which IGNORANCE cannot misrepresent³.

1. **MALICE**: evil intention
2. **blacken**: to make it dark/to spoil
3. **misrepresent**: to give a wrong image, interpretation



Charles Robert Leslie, *A Scene from Tristram Shandy*
('Uncle Toby and the Widow Wadman', 1829-1830).