

[Tissot, Onanism, London, 1766 - suite]

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Présentation de la fiche

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specting the boundaries set by the laws, and by health. He is one carried away by his passions, and who is wanting to himself. We are much more willing to absolve such an one, than him who in his sin violates all the laws of Nature, perverting all her sentiments, and disappoints all her ends. Sensible of how great a horror he must be in to society, if his crime was known, that idea alone must incessantly torment him.

"It seems to me (says one of these criminals, a fragment of whose letter I have above quoted) "as if every one could read "in my face, the infamous cause of my ailments, and this idea renders company insupportable to me."

They fall into melancholy and despair; of which examples may have been seen in the fourth Section of this work, and they labor under all the evils that are brought on by a continuity of dejection or sadness, without having, and this is dreadful indeed for a criminal, any pretext of justification, any motive of comfort. And what are the effects of such a melancholy? A relaxation of the fibres, a lentor of the circulation, imperfection of the digestions, a deficient nutrition, obstructions occasioned by those shrinkings or contractions which most particularly seem the effect of sadness or melancholy: ["the strainers of the liver, says SE-

"NAC,

"NAC, close themselves, and the bilious "overflow spreads over the whole body:"] spasms, convulsions, palsies, pains, increase of anguish *ad infinitum*; with all the train of evils consequential to these.

It would be superfluous to enlarge more here on the dangers particular to self-pollution: they are but too real, and too self-evident: I proceed to the last part of this work, the methods of cure.

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