N. Dance pinxit. J. G. Haid sculpt.

VIRGINIA, THE UNFORTUNATE ROMAN MAID.

Dear children: Appius the Decemvir, had recourse to an unwarrantable profession, & as the most effectual means of accomplishing his desires was to get her into his power he sent one of his dependants upon claiming her as his slave: the matter therefore being to be tried by Appius, Virginia is brought before him & he gives sentence in favour of the wretch he had suborned, upon which Virginius the father of Virginia, amongst all the angry Decemvirs, saw his daughter from being dishonoured, snatches up a knife from a butcher's shambles in the forum, stabs her with it in the presence of many of the Roman Ladies her much & other relations & of her own lover to whom she was betrothed. This fatal catastrophe was the cause of the abolition of a tyrannical & has greatly endeared the Romans.

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