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Zeluco. A novel by JOHN MOORE published in 1786 with the sub-title, 'Various views of Human Nature, Taken from Life and Manners, Foreign and Domestic'. It tells the story of the crimes committed by Zeluco, a vicious Sicilian nobleman whose life is corrupted by lust, cruelty and revenge. His childhood is marked by several cruel acts; as he grows into manhood his wickedness culminates in the enforced marriage, by treachery, of a beautiful and virtuous girl who is finally driven into madness. Zeluco is then himself killed in circumstances that mirror the uneven tenor of his own life. Although the sadistic and scandalous scenes link the novel to Gothic tales of horror, *Zeluco* is saved from the excesses of that genre by Moore's psychological insights into the central character's monstrous behaviour. The novel is notable, too, for Moore's vivid descriptions of the Mediterranean, which he gained from his own travels, and also for his polished and caustic literary style. The minor characters are not without interest, especially the servants, Targe and Buchanan, two Scots

who squabble remorselessly and intolerantly over the character of MARY, Queen of Scots. Moore's social criticism led him to include a detailed attack on the horrors of Negro slavery, and a hostile satire on the Roman Catholic church.

Zion's Flowers. A collection of stories from the Old Testament rendered into verse by the poet ZACHARY BOYD, first published in 1644. *Zion's Flowers, or Christian Poems for Spiritual Edification* begins with 'The Fall of Adam' and ends with 'The History of John Baptist'; also included are two original pieces of verse, 'The Popish Powder Plot' and 'The World's Vanities'. Although Boyd's work was a creditable attempt to make the scriptures more widely available to the public, it was marred by his frequently ridiculous style of versification, of which the following is a typical example:

There was a man called Job,
Dwelt in the land of Uz;
He had the gift of the gob;
The same case happen us!