

Two Dialogues by Sir Joshua Reynolds
in Imitation of Dr. Johnson's Style of Conversation

[...]

Johnson. Garrick, Sir, died of a disorder of which you or any other may die, without being killed by too much sensibility.

Gibbon. But you will allow, however, that this sensibility, those fine feelings, made him the great actor he was.

Johnson. This is all cant, fit only for kitchen wenches and chamber maids: Garrick's trade was to represent passion, not to feel it. Ask Reynolds whether he felt the distress of Count Hugolino when he drew it.

Gibbon. But surely he feels the passion at the moment he is representing it.

Johnson. About as much as Punch feels.

[...]