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原 文
約 翰 生 行 述

附 譯 文 註 釋

THE LIFE OF SAMUEL JOHNSON

BY
THOMAS B. LORD MACAULAY

WITH CHINESE NOTES
AND
TRANSLATIONS

BY
RICHARD S. C. HSI

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麥 皋 萊 小 傳

——生於 1800 年——

——死年 1859 年——

麥皋萊是十九世紀的一個出色人才，他在社會和政治上都佔據着很重要的地位。他是生長在英國的列却司脫洲的，他的父親也曾一度的當過殖民地的官員，他的母親是個很精幹敏捷的婦人，對於麥皋萊的性情有極大的應響。

麥皋萊在孩子的時候就非常聰明。在三歲的時候他就很努力於讀書了，到了五歲，說話就很文雅，到十歲，他已經能夠寫普通歷史的小冊子了，此外他還能寫短詩哩。他的讀書真能一目十行，所以一生所看的書真多極了。他的記憶力的強健，真使人難以相信呢，有一次人們試他的記憶力，他竟能將四十年前在一個咖啡室裏所讀的兩首新聞報上所載的詩，一直背出，毫不稍加思索。

在十二歲時他進私立學校，十八歲時進大學院念書。在學校裏他是一個著名的文學家，是個辯才奔放的演說家。大學畢業以後，他又學法律，成為律師；到1830年，他的努力的結果得進了國會。



的辯論家。當時他很窮困，仰給於他的父親和姊

姊的支持。他在政治上的進步很快，這是因為他的才能和努力所致的。他當過印第安總督署的高等顧問，並內閣的關員。聲名的隆盛，真是不可言喻哩。

他的文學上的工作，在學校讀書時就開始了。因為他的文章清新，筆路流暢，很博得當時民間的傳誦。他的歷史上的著作，到現在還是在學校裏採作課本呢。他的著名的作品是“History of England”“Essay on Milton”“Essay on Samuel Johnson”等書。

凡 例

- (一) 本公司所輯譯加註之標準英文文學讀本凡十餘種，均歐美名家之傑作，適用於中等學校，爲時已久，可供中等學校教科及學者自修參考之用。
- (一) 此類英文文學讀本，學生欲明瞭其深意，細加翻檢，每以功課繁重，常恐時間不足；故譯成中文，置於原文之旁，以省讀者翻檢之勞，俾收心領神會之益。
- (一) 本書原文意義深奧，恐讀者難於明瞭，故於譯文之外，再加詳註，以1—2—3—4……等號碼，置於斜體字之左上角，作爲標記，易於參照查閱。
- (一) 凡譯文之中有「」記號者，其括號內之文字，乃補充文意不足之處，惟恐依照原文直譯，不能令讀者明瞭本義，故用括號內之文字補充之。
- (一) 本書原文用意深刻，謬爲譯註，不免爲大雅所譏。如蒙隨時賜教改善，則感甚幸甚！

SAMUEL JOHNSON

1. Samuel Johnson, one of the most eminent English writers of the eighteenth century, was the son of Michael Johnson, who was, at the beginning of that century, a magistrate of *Lichfield*¹, and a bookseller of *great note*² in the *midland counties*³. Michael's *abilities*⁴ and *attainments*⁵ seem to have been considerable. He was so well *acquainted with*⁶ the *contents of the volumes*⁷ which he exposed to sale, that the *country rectors*⁸ of Staffordshire and, Worcestershire thought him an *oracle*⁹ on points of learning. Between him and the *clergy*¹⁰, indeed, there was a strong *religious and political sympathy*¹¹. He was a *zealous churchman*¹², and, though he had qualified himself for *municipal office*¹³ by *taking the oaths*¹⁴ to the *sovereigns in possession*¹⁵, was *to the last a Jacobite in heart*¹⁶. At his house, a house which is still pointed out to every traveller who visits Lichfield, Samuel was born on the 18th of September, 1709. In the *child*¹⁷, the *physical*¹⁸, *intellectual*¹⁹, and *moral*²⁰, *peculiarities*²¹ which afterwards, *distinguished*²² the man were *plainly discernible*²³,—great *muscular*²⁴ strength accompanied by much *awkwardness*²⁵ and many *infirmities*²⁶; great *quickness*²⁷ of parts, with a *morbid*²⁸ *propensity*²⁹ to sloth and *procrastination*³⁰; a kind and generous heart, with a *gloomy*³¹ and *irritable*³² temper. He had inherited from his *ancestors*³³ a *scrupulous taint*³⁴, which it was *beyond the power of medicine to remove*³⁵. His parents were weak enough to

1. 地名(在倫敦北); 2. 著名; 3. 中部各郡; 4. 才略; 5. 學識; 6. 熟悉; 7. 書中義蘊; 8. 鄉間牧師; 9. 有求必應之神明; 10. 牧師團; 11. 在宗教上與政治上深表同情; 12. 熱心教會者; 13. 市政的; 14. 立誓; 15. 在位之王; 16. 到底從英王雅各第二及其子孫之黨人; 17. 幼稚時期; 18. 體格的; 19. 知識的; 20. 德的; 21. 特性; 22. 示異; 23. 顯然可見; 24. 壯健; 25. 粗鄙; 26. 病疾; 27. 敏慧; 28. 不康健的; 29. 癖; 30. 遲緩; 31. 含愁的; 32. 易怒的; 33. 先祖; 34. 癩瘡; 35. 非藥力所能治愈。

薩莫愛爾約翰生

【一】薩莫愛爾約翰生是十八世紀英國的文學鉅子之一，父親叫做密佳爾約翰生，在十八世紀的初葉，做立區非爾德的官長，也是一個中部各郡的著名書商。他的才略學識，都很優長，凡所陳列經售的各種書籍，其中義蘊，他都能融會貫通。所以施塔福轄和渥賽斯脫轄鄉間的牧師，在學術上都視若神明，在他和牧師之間，凡宗教上和政治上，彼此都很表同情。因為他是一個熱心宗教的人。雖然他曾一度做過官吏，其實他是雅各派的黨人，終身心向故主。他的老房子至今還是巍然存在，凡是經過立區非爾德的遊客沒有不看見的。薩莫愛爾就是生在那房子之中的，那時候正是一七零九年九月八日。他在孩童的時候，身體智識德行三樣都很有異稟，在此已可徵日後必為非常的人才了。他外形非常壯健，但貌寢而多疾，天資敏慧，然很因循疏懶。他的性情很寬和，但是又很性急和多愁。他幼年的時期，患着他先世所遺傳下來的癩癧的病症，非藥力所能醫治。相傳有一個特別靈效的異方，就是用王家的手一觸以後，就可以全愈，他的父母也不十分相信。

believe that the royal touch was a specific for this *malady*¹. In his third year he was taken up to London, *inspected by*² the *court surgeon*³, prayed over by the court *chaplains*⁴, and stroked and presented with a piece of gold by *Queen Anne*⁵. One of his earliest *recollections*⁶ was that of a *stately lady*⁷ in a *diamond*⁸ *stomacher*⁹ and a long black hood. Her hand was applied *in vain*¹⁰. The boy's features, which were originally noble and not *irregular*¹¹, were *distorted*¹² by his malady. His cheeks were deeply *scarred*¹³. He lost for a time the *sight*¹⁴ of one eye, and he saw but very imperfectly with the other. But the force of his mind overcame every *impediment*¹⁵. *Indolent*¹⁶ as he was, he acquired knowledge with such ease and rapidity that at every school to which he was sent he was soon the best scholar. From sixteen to eighteen he resided at home, and was left to his own *devices*¹⁷. He learned much at this time, though his studies were without *guidance*¹⁸ and without plan. He *ransacked*¹⁹ his father's shelves, dipped into a *multitude of books*²⁰, read what was interesting and passed over what was dull. An ordinary lad would have acquired little or no useful knowledge in such a way, but much that was dull to ordinary lads was interesting to Samuel. He read little Greek, for his *proficiency*²¹ in that language was not such that he could take much pleasure in the masters of Attic poetry and *elocquence*²². But he had left school a good Latinist, and he soon acquired, in the large and *miscellaneous library*²³ of which he now had the command, an extensive knowl-

1. 疾病; 2. 審察於; 3. 御醫; 4. 教士; 5. 女王名; 6. 回憶; 7. 貴婦; 8. 金剛鑽;
9. 綴胸; 10. 無用; 11. 乖戾; 12. 拘攣; 13. 疤痕; 14. 眼光; 15. 阻礙; 16. 懶惰;
17. 計劃; 18. 指引; 19. 徧索; 20. 羣書; 21. 諳練; 22. 雄辯; 23. 散雜的藏書樓。

到三歲的時候，他被領到倫敦，先由御醫審察，在王上之前他有牧師爲他祈禱，再由安尼女王替他撫摸，同時又賜他金飾一塊。他追憶當時的情景，僅能記得一事，見到一個莊嚴的貴婦，御着鑽石的綴胸，戴着廣袤的玄冠。然而結果，那君后的撫摸，完全無效。那孩子本來沒有乖戾形狀的面容，都爲惡疾變成拘攣了。他的面上癍痕宛然，有一個時候，他的一只眼睛曾經失明，他僅能糊糊塗塗的看東西。但是他的心力戰勝了一切的困難，雖是秉性疎慵，但是記誦絕無困苦，並且敏慧異常。他任被送到那個學校去，都能很便易和很快的得到學識，並且不久就成爲學校中超羣絕倫的學生。自十六歲到十八歲，他住在家中，選擇途徑，完全依他自己的計劃。雖然當時誦讀，沒有良師，也無程序，而學業所得甚多。他在他父親的書架上蒐集書本，浸淫於羣籍之中，好的都讀而忘食，沈悶的棄置着不讀。假使是一個普通的孩子，在這種方法之中將要毫無所獲，或是得到很少有用的學問。但是許多普通孩子所不喜歡的，在薩莫愛爾却是喜歡。他對於希臘語學得很少，雖略諳希臘的方言，尙未能沈酣于雅典的詩歌和滔滔的雄辯之中。但是他離校的時候已成爲臘丁語學的名家了。他在那個宏大而駁雜的藏書樓中，盡力探索，不久就得到極淵深的臘丁學識了。

edge of Latin literature. That *Augustan*¹ *delicacy*² of taste which is the boast of the great public *schools*³ of England he never possessed. But he was early familiar with some *classical writers*⁴ who were quite unknown to the best scholars in the sixth form at *Elon*⁵. He was peculiarly attracted by the works of the great restorers of learning. Once, while searching for some apples, he found a huge *folio volume*⁶ of *Petrarch's*⁷ works. The name excited his curiosity, and he eagerly devoured hundreds of pages. Indeed, the *diction*⁸ and versification of his own Latin compositions show that he had paid at least as much attention to modern copies from the antique as to the original models.

2. While he was thus irregularly educating himself, his family was sinking into hopeless poverty. Old Michael Johnson was much better qualified to *pore upon*⁹ books, and to talk about them, than to trade in them. His business *declined*¹⁰; his debts increased; it was with difficulty that the daily expenses of his household were *defrayed*¹¹. It was out of his power to support his son at either *university*¹², but a wealthy neighbor offered assistance, and, in reliance on promises which proved to be of very little value, Samuel was entered at Pembroke College, Oxford. When the young scholar presented himself to the rulers of that *society*¹³, they were amazed not more by his ungainly figure and eccentric manners than by the quantity of extensive and curious information which he had picked up during many months of *desultory*¹⁴ but not unprofitable study. On the first day of his residence,

1. 羅馬帝; 2. 珍品; 3. 學派; 4. 文學家; 5. 最高級之學生; 6. 巨冊; 7. 意大利文學家名; 8. 辭章; 9. 瀏覽; 10. 衰落; 11. 開支; 12. 大學; 13. 社團, 學校; 14. 散漫無紀.

在精美的文學學派中，奧古斯登是英國學派中的最自矜的，但是他却未嘗相熟。但是若說到羅馬文學名家，那就是去問那最出名已在第六級的伊東高才生亦所茫然不知的，他却都能對答如流呢。他對於提倡復古文學中的中興鉅子，嚮往最深。有一天，他正在尋找蘋果的時候，忽然得到了一巨冊毗脫辣赤的遺文。單就書的名字，已經振起了他的好奇之心，急速地披覽着那累百的篇幅，懇切地去研究，你看到他自己所著的臘丁文詞章詩律，已可見到他頗注意於近世摩古的簡編，他對於原著，正一些也沒有輕忽過呢。

【二】 當他正如此無次序的自修勤學時，他的家道中落了，甚至於赤貧。老人密嘉爾，說他善於賣書，寧可說他善於瀏覽和善於稱道各書。他的營業衰落，債累頻增，就是日常所需，也復難於支持，要他使兒子入大學讀書，斷非能力所及。幸而有個富的鄰人，允為資助。但是實際上不過是空言之諾，毫無價值。薩木愛爾因此得暫入渥克斯福的攀勃洛克學院。當這青年置身於學校的當局之前，不覺羣相駭異，不特詫異他的不揚之貌和怪僻的形狀，並且震驚着他的學識宏博，記誦超羣，這都是數月自修所得到的，雖然不循規律，却是得益良深。在校第一日，就因引用麥克羅彪斯的成語而震駭其師。

he surprised his teachers by quoting Macrobius; and one of the most learned among them declared that he had never known a *freshman*¹ of equal attainments².

3. At Oxford, Johnson resided during about three years. He was poor, even to *raggedness*³; and his appearance excited a mirth and a pity which were equally intolerable to his *haughty spirit*⁴. He was driven from the *quadrangle*⁵ of Christ Church by the sneering looks which the members of that *aristocratical society*⁶ cast at the holes in his shoes. Some *charitable*⁷ person placed a new pair at his door, but he spurned them away in a *fury*⁸. Distress made him, not servile, but reckless and ungovernable. No opulent gentleman commoner, panting for one and twenty, could have treated the academical authorities with more gross *disrespect*⁹. The needy scholar was generally to be seen under the gate of Pembroke, a gate now adorned with his *effigy*¹⁰, haranguing a circle of lads, over whom, in spite of his tattered gown and dirty linen, his wit and *audacity*¹¹ gave him an *undisputed*¹² *ascendency*¹³. In every mutiny against the discipline of the college, he was the *ringleader*¹⁴. Much was pardoned, however, to a youth so highly distinguished by abilities and acquirements. He had early made himself known by turning Pope's "Messiah" into Latin verse. The style and rhythm, indeed, were not exactly Virgilian; but the translation found many admirers, and was read with pleasure by Pope himself.

4. The time drew near at which Johnson would, in the ordinary course of things, have become a bachelor of arts; but

1. 新進學生; 2. 學識; 3. 褴褛; 4. 驕傲氣概; 5. 四方形庭; 6. 貴族院; 7. 慈善的; 8. 怒; 9. 失敬; 10. 遺像; 11. 豪氣; 12. 無可議的; 13. 權勢者; 14. 首領;

其中有個飽學的教員，宣言着在此以前，他沒有見到過如此的新進後生。

【三】 約翰生在渥克福學校有三年時光。他非常寒素，甚至衣衫襤褸，外表真是引人發笑，也動人憐惜，但是笑和憐惜，都不是他所能領受的，因為他秉性是驕傲的。有一天，他在貴族院中，因為有人在偷看他洞穿的革履，他就好似被人打了似的，疾馳出那方形之庭。當時有和善之人，把一雙新鞋子，放在他的門右，他就狂怒，把他踢開。困苦艱難，不能抑壓他，使他卑屈而恭順，徒然使他狂放和不羈。他尚未屆二十一歲，然對校中的權要，却屬如此狂貌，那雖在校中佔有特殊權利的自費生，亦所不敢的。攀勃洛克校舍的門前，現在已裝置了他的遺像。在當時這個寒酸的學子，常能見彼口講指畫於此門之下。不問他的敝衣垢服，就是天才豪氣，亦已顯然有執牛耳之盟，俯視羣倫的氣概了。每有隕越校規的騷動，戎首必爲此人。但是矚念到他卓越的才學，因此也就格外原諒他。他曾經將蒲伯所著的美細阿一詩譯爲臘丁文，因此就聞名於世。他的格調固然不能適合弗吉林詩派，但他的譯筆，好多人爲之傾倒，就是蒲伯自取讀之，也覺得適當滿意。

【四】 時序遷移，約翰生離那得到學士位置的時光日近一日了；

he was at the end of his *resources*¹. Those promises of support on which he had relied had not been kept. His family could do nothing for him. His debts to Oxford *tradesmen*² were small indeed, yet larger than he could pay. In the autumn of 1731 he was under the necessity of quitting the university without a *degree*³. In the following winter his father died. The old man left but a pittance, and of that pittance almost the whole was *appropriated*⁴ to the support of his widow. The property to which Samuel *succeeded*⁵ amounted to no more than twenty pounds.

5. His life during the thirty years which followed was one hard struggle with poverty. The misery of that struggle needed no *aggravation*⁶, but was aggravated by the *suffering*⁷ of an unsound body and an unsound mind. Before the young man left the university, his *hereditary malady*⁸ had broken forth in a singularly cruel form. He had become an *incurable*⁹ *hypochondriac*¹⁰. He said long after that he had been mad all his life, or at least not perfectly sane; and, in truth, eccentricities less strange than his have often been thought grounds sufficient for absolving felons and for setting aside wills. His grimaces, his gestures, his mutterings, sometimes diverted and sometimes terrified people who did not know him. At a dinner table he would, in a fit of absence, stoop down and twitch off a lady's shoe. He would amaze a drawing-room by suddenly ejaculating a clause of the Lord's Prayer. He would conceive an unintelligible *aversion*¹¹ to a particular alley, and perform a great circuit rather than see

1. 來源; 2. 商人; 3. 學位; 4. 指撥; 5. 承襲; 6. 加增之困難; 7. 受苦;
8. 遺傳之病; 9. 不能治的; 10. 歪斜之面目; 11. 無端之嫌惡。

但是他的經濟來源斷絕了。他所恃的惟一的資助的約言，至此竟不能履行。他的家庭不能絲毫的幫助他，雖是他在渥克斯福商人那兒所負的債不多，但是實在不能付給。到了一七一三年的秋季，爲時勢所迫，終於不得學位而退校。那年的冬天，他的父親故世了。老人身後的遺資，爲數甚渺。至於那區區的微款，大半是留下作爲贍養他的寡婦用的，薩莫愛爾所得的遺產，總計不過二十鎊。

【五】自此以後約有三十年的光境，是他生平與貧苦劇戰的時代，他與貧苦戰爭已臻到極高峯了，何況還加上那內心的伊鬱，身體的孱弱，則其茹苦含辛，實非常人所堪忍受。那少年未離大學以前，他的世傳的病，已是猝發爲奇劇的形態，又得了憂鬱不瘳之疾。久後自言，他一身都是在發狂之中，要不然，也非完全澄澈，其實，乖僻性情，就是不如他那樣厲害，在常人心目中看，已足流於偏激。或諒彼僉任，或廢其遺囑，都是意中的事情。約翰生面目的欹斜，身勢的聳動。和時常喃喃自語，倘使不是認識他的見到了他，非掩口胡盧，就是駭爲怪物。偶爾他出席賓筵，倘使他在心神愉悅之時，他會俯身下去忽然的去解下一個婦人的鞋子，或者忽然在一室賓主雜坐之間，他却突然的琅琅誦起祈禱的文來了，以致舉室咸爲震驚。有時他遇到了幽曲里巷，他會忽然無端生起嫌惡之心，

the hateful place. He would set his heart on touching every post in the streets through which he walked. If by any chance he missed a post, he would go back a hundred yards and *repair*¹ the omission. Under the influence of his disease, his senses became morbidly torpid and his *imagination*² morbidly active. At one time he would stand poring on the town clock without being able to tell the hour. At another he would distinctly hear his mother, who was many miles off, calling him by his name. But this was not the worst. A deep *melancholy*³ took possession of him, and gave a dark tinge to all his views of human nature and of human *destiny*⁴. Such wretchedness as he endured has driven many men to shoot themselves or drown themselves. But he was under no temptation to *commit suicide*⁵. He was sick of life, but he was afraid of death; and he *shuddered*⁶ at every sight or sound which reminded him of the *inevitable*⁷ hour. In religion he found but little comfort during his long and frequent fits of *dejection*⁸, for his religion partook of his own character. The light from heaven shone on him indeed, but not in a direct line, or with its own pure splendor. The rays had to struggle through a disturbing *medium*⁹: they reached him refracted, dulled, and discolored by the thick gloom which had settled on his soul, and, though they might be sufficiently clear to guide him, were too dim to cheer him.

6. With such infirmities of body and of mind, this celebrated man was left, at two and twenty, to fight his way through the world. He remained during about five years in

1. 補足; 2. 幻想; 3. 悽慘; 4. 色澤; 5. 犯自殺; 6. 恐惶; 7. 不能免;
8. 憂愁; 9. 中間物.

自此竟絕跡此途，不願看到那憎惡的地方。有時候，他走在街市之間，忽然專心致意的去數那道旁所值的標柱，一一的用手去觸着。假使失去一根，他就不憚反奔百碼之遙，去補他缺漏。因為他委頓於疾病之下，神智日見顛覆，而幻想日見靈警。有時對市上的巨鐘僵立矚視，而不能言其時，不過有時道里間隔，又能鑿鑿聞慈母的聲音，呼他的小字，這是一小部份。憂鬱深中其身，舉凡一切人生秉性定命之端，由他看來，都黯然絕無生趣。如他所嘗苦況，真是足以使人自戕自溺而有餘。但是他却絕無少萌自盡之念，因為他雖厭生，却又畏死，凡聽到了人生總有不可倖免大限之時，他就悚然而懼。至於宗教，也略有關於他秉性特殊之處，因為久困於憂患之中，故亦無多樂趣。就是上界的光明，雖是沒有不照臨及他，但是不是直線照臨，或是並非是她自己的精潔的光華。實在這個無量光線，中途須經一障礙，然後委曲盤旋而下。實在他心靈上已滿蔽濃翳，光線達之，僅有反射之斜光，而她的顏色也已闇淡而失其璀璨。雖是澄澈足以誘掖，然已朦朧不能鼓舞他了。

【六】 身心上有如此疾病的人，這知名之士却在二十二歲就奮戰自尋生路於茫茫世界之中，他居住在中部各郡約有五年。

the midland counties. At Lichfield, his *birthplace*¹ and his early home, he had inherited some friends and *acquired*² others. He was kindly *noticed*³ by Henry Hervey, a gay officer of noble family, who happened to be quartered there. Gilbert Walmesley, registrar of the *ecclesiastical*⁴ court of the *diocese*⁵ — a man of distinguished parts, learning, and knowledge of the world, — did himself honor by *patronizing*⁶ the young adventurer, whose *repulsive*⁷ person, unpolished manners, and squalid garb moved many of the *petty aristocracy*⁸ of the neighborhood to laughter or to disgust. At Lichfield, however, Johnson could find no way of earning a livelihood. He became usher of a grammar school in Leicestershire; he resided as a humble companion in the house of a country gentleman; but a life of dependence was *insupportable*⁹ to his haughty spirit. He repaired to Birmingham, and there earned a few guineas by literary *drudgery*¹⁰. In that town he printed a translation, little noticed at the time and long forgotten, of a Latin book about Abyssinia. He then put forth proposals for publishing by *subscription*¹¹ the poems of Politian, with notes containing a history of modern Latin verse; but subscriptions did not come in, and the volume never appeared.

7. While leading this vagrant and miserable life, Johnson fell in love. The object of his passion was Mrs. Elizabeth Porter, a widow who had children as old as himself. To ordinary spectators, the lady appeared to be a short, fat, coarse woman, painted half an inch thick, dressed in gaudy

1. 出身地方; 2. 得; 3. 垂青; 4. 教會的; 5. 僧正所轄區; 6. 恩助; 7. 可厭;
8. 小貴族; 9. 難堪; 10. 辛苦之事; 11. 捐款.

離亦非爾德是他誕生的地方，是他最初居留的地方。在那裏有不少舊好新知的人，有個人叫做亨利赫肥的，是個世家之子，華貴的軍官，當時剛巧屯駐在那地方，待他很厚。又有個極爾波渥墨斯雷，是教會法庭的典簿，他很有卓異的才幹，學問也好，當世的學識又很博，他對於這個冒險的少年恩意有加，時加青眼。但這個少年常拒人於千里之外，作傲慢無禮之態，加上了衣衫襤褸，往往令鄉黨舊家子弟非笑而嫌惡他。在離亦非爾德地方，約翰生實在無計得資自活，後來任助教於雷雖斯脫轄的預備學校，寄居在一家鄉間的紳士家中，差不多是一個服從的伴侶。但是依人籬下，豈是他狷傲性情所能甘服，於是又到勃明罕地方去，依靠筆墨生涯，得幾個幾尼度活。在此城中，曾發刊一種譯稿，原書為臘丁文，是敘述亞別新尼亞的事蹟的。當是很少注意的人，久且忘之。隨後又提倡贖資刊印波黎身詩集，附以箋註和近世臘丁詩詞的歷史，然而竟無投資的人，以致此願迄未得實現。

【七】 當他流離失所的時候，約翰生忽沈溺於情愛。他所鍾情的人，是一個孀婦，叫做愛麗沙白博德。可是她所生的子女的年齡，和約翰生也已相伯仲了。在常人觀之，那個女人是短矮而肥碩，是一個蠢婦罷了。並且塗澤脂粉，厚幾半寸，著着燦爛的衣服，氣息容貌，

colors, and fond of exhibiting provincial airs and graces which were not exactly those of the Queensberrys and Lepels. To Johnson, however, whose passions were strong, whose eyesight was too weak to distinguish *ceruse*¹ from natural bloom, and who had seldom or never been in the same room with a woman of real *fashion*², his 'Tetty, as he called her, was the most beautiful, graceful, and *accomplished*³ of her sex. That his admiration was *unfeigned*⁴ cannot be doubted, for she was as poor as himself. She accepted, with a readiness which did her little honor, the *addresses*⁵ of a *suitor*⁶ who might have been her son. The marriage, however, in spite of occasional *wranglings*⁷, proved happier than might have been expected. The lover continued to be under the *illusions*⁸ of the wedding day till the lady died, in her sixty-fourth year. On her *monument*⁹ he placed an *inscription*¹⁰ extolling the charms of her person and of her manners; and when, long after her decease, he had occasion to mention her, he exclaimed, with a tenderness half ludicrous, half pathetic, "Pretty creature!"

8. His marriage made it necessary for him to *exert*¹¹ himself more strenuously than he had hitherto done. He took a house in the neighborhood of his native town, and advertised for pupils. But eighteen months passed away, and only three pupils came to his academy. Indeed, his appearance was so strange, and his temper so violent, that his schoolroom must have resembled an *ogre's*¹² den. Nor was the tawdry, painted grandmother whom he called his Titty well qualified to make provision for the comfort of young

1. 鉛粉; 2. 時髦; 3. 有才學; 4. 眞實無僞; 5. 求婚; 6. 求婚者; 7. 偶然的口爭論; 8. 追憶; 9. 碑; 10. 墓誌銘; 11. 盡力; 12. 食人之怪物。

刻意學着時髦，與瓊史麗和蕾蓓兒斯的態度，有天壤之別。但是約翰生爵愛既深，目光又弱，那裏知道矯揉粉飾和天然的美麗。並且他和時尚的女子，在一室之中周旋，爲絕無僅有的事情，所以以爲她的體態是女子中驚才絕艷最窈窕多姿之一人了。因此他對於這個老太婆竟以體貼的稱呼叫她了。他的對於她的傾倒是出於至誠，毫無虛飾是可以無疑的，因爲那女人的貧困，真是與他絲毫無異。把向老婦人乞婚人的年齡來計算，那婦人竟可以將他作爲兒子撫養，但是當他向她乞婚時，她却一諾無辭，毫不猶豫，好似毋庸顧及名譽的神情。這一段婚姻，雖有時不免稍有口角，但是他倆浹洽愉悅的情形，竟出人意外。因爲這對情人，時常不忘却結褵的一段事情，時時想到，直至那婦人到六十四歲壽終的時候爲止。在碑上約翰生並爲文誌之，竭力表揚她體格容態的美麗。婦人死去很久以後，約翰生猶在人前稱道她，說時聲調緩和，半由悱惻，半作詼諧，一提起就說着「美人兮！」

【八】 他既結婚以後，圖生存的努力，不得不較前更烈了。因此在生長之鄰右，借了一間屋，登報招生徒來學。不料忽忽十八月的時光，來校肄業的，僅有三人，因爲他的形狀的奇怪，性情的暴烈，他的校舍真與鬼窟無異了。那個脂粉塗澤矯揉作態的祖阿嫻，就是他呼之爲體貼的人，也是不善於供應未能使那少年學子有暢然意適的時光。

gentlemen. David Garrick, who was one of the pupils, used many years later to throw the best company of London into convulsions of laughter by *mimicking*¹ the endearments of this *extraordinary*² pair.

9. At length Johnson, in the twenty-eighth year of his age, determined to seek his fortune in the capital as a literary adventurer. He set out with a few guineas, three acts of the *tragedy*³ of "*Irene*"⁴ in manuscript⁵, and two or three letters of introduction from his friend Walmsley.

10. Never since literature became a calling in England had it been a less gainful *calling*⁶ than at the time when Johnson took up his residence in London. In the preceding *generation*⁷, a writer of eminent merit was sure to be munificently rewarded by the government. The least that he could expect was a pension or a sinecure place; and, if he showed any *aptitude*⁸ for politics, he might hope to be a member of Parliament, a lord of the treasury, an *ambassador*⁹, a secretary of state. It would be easy, on the other hand, to name several writers of the nineteenth century, of whom the least successful has received forty thousand pounds from the booksellers. But Johnson entered on his *vocation*¹⁰ in the most dreary part of the dreary interval which separated two ages of *prosperity*¹¹. Literature had ceased to flourish under the *patronage*¹² of the great, and had not begun to flourish under the patronage of the public. One man of letters, indeed, Pope, had acquired by his pen what was then considered as a handsome fortune, and lived on a footing of equality with nobles

1. 描劃; 2. 非常的; 3. 悲劇; 4. 劇名; 5. 草稿; 6. 職業; 7. 世, 時期;
8. 頭角; 9. 大巨; 10. 就事, 任事; 11. 繁盛; 12. 嗜好.

有個大隈加利戛，也是他的學生之一，後來時常在倫敦描畫這一對老夫婦在學生之前親熱的情狀，座客見到了，時常爲之絕倒。

【九】 到後來，約翰生已年紀到了二十八歲了，他決計入都爲筆墨的冒險家以求際遇，臨行時帶了幾個幾尼的錢，和一册手抄本的阿倫悲劇的草本三幕，還有友人渥墨斯雷的介紹信兩三封。

【十】 英國自有筆墨生涯以來的寂寞情狀，再也不能像約翰生住在倫敦時候的情況了。在他的前一時代，倘使是卓越的文學家，必受政府的厚饋無已，也可望得到卹養之資，或閒曹之職。使能於政治上少露頭角，或可望占一席於國會之中，或綜攬度支，或皇華出使，或爲國務大臣，都是意中之事。倘使在其後也足致富，試看十九世紀中的著作家數人就知道了，就是其中最不得意的尚且還得到四萬磅於售書的商人。然約翰生的來臨，適然際此最落寞的時期，前後兩時期都極繁盛，那時正是過渡的時期，因此他適逢其厄。文學興盛之源，其先是由於大人先生們的獎勵，但是此風已息。其後是由於普通人民的嗜好，但是此局尙未開放。當時僅有一個文學家，以筆管而致鉅富，所居的地位，足與貴族和重臣相頡頏。那個人就是蒲伯。

and ministers of state. But this was a solitary exception. Even an author whose *reputation*¹ was established, and whose works were popular—such an author as *Thomson*², whose “Seasons” were in every library; such an author as *Fielding*³, whose “Pasquin” had had a greater run than any *drama*⁴ since the “Beggar’s Opera”—was sometimes glad to obtain, by *pawning*⁵ his best coat, the means of dining on tripe at a cookshop underground, where he could wipe his hands, after his greasy meal, on the back of a Newfoundland dog. It is easy, therefore, to imagine what *humiliations*⁶ and *privations*⁷ must have awaited the *novice*⁸ who had still to earn a name. One of the publishers to whom Johnson applied for *employment*⁹ measured with a scornful eye that athletic though uncouth frame, and exclaimed, “You had better get a porter’s *knot*¹⁰ and carry trunks.” Nor was the advice bad, for a porter was likely to be as plentifully fed and as comfortably lodged as a poet.

11. Some time appears to have elapsed before Johnson was able to form any literary *connection*¹¹ from which he could expect more than bread for the day which was passing over him. He never forgot the *generosity*¹² with which Hervey, who was now residing in London, relieved his wants during this time of trial. “Harry Hervey,” said the old philosopher many years later, “was a vicious man, but he was very kind to me. If you call a dog Hervey, I shall love him.” At Hervey’s table, Johnson sometimes enjoyed feasts which were made more agreeable by contrast. But in general he

1. 名譽; 2. 名曲家; 3. 名作家; 4. 戲曲; 5. 典質; 6. 挫辱; 7. 困苦;
8. 新進; 9. 謀事業; 10. 飾物; 11. 事業; 12. 寬宏。

所特異的人物，也就僅此一人罷了。就是有等著作家，他的名已卓著，他的文集已盛行，如文學家湯墨生，他所著的西岑，凡藏書之所，幾於家家置有一編，又如非爾亭，他所作的怕斯昆曲本，風行已盛，自倍加史渥潑拉以後，幾於沒有與他相比的。但是這兩個人，有時還要與寶最美麗的衣服，到隧道食店之中去飽啖腥膻，以快一時之饕餮。油膩的手，要假紐芳蘭的狗脊來揩拭，然而他們仍是很快樂的。如此看來，那新進尚未知名之士，必不免種種困難挫辱之情，已可想見。當時有一個印書人，約翰生就對之自述所長，乞他錄用，那個人就以輕視的目光審量着他，見到他的雄健而貌寢，因斥之道你不如戴與臺的抹額，與人擔簞負笈到來得好些。這句話，也不可說刻薄，因為與臺走卒之果其腹而安其居，或者也未必少遜於詩人。

【十一】歲序催人，流光易邁，經過了許久時光後，約翰生在文墨之間已能自樹一幟。筆耕所入，可於果腹之外，能希望少得餘資了。他常常倦倦不忘赫阜之情，因為當他艱苦之時，剛正赫阜僑寓在倫敦，時常資助他的困乏。過了許多年數，這垂老的哲學家還在向人說着哈利赫阜的為人。他說他「雖是好惡互見，但是待我至有恩情，倘使有人斥赫阜為狗，吾也還是愛他的。」他常時參與赫阜的盛筵，而他們所備的菜肴與他平時服用的相較，真是過於豐美了。因為他尋常就餐之地，常在著名的衢巷之旁，愛爾酒肆之內，

dined, and thought that he dined well, on sixpennyworth of meat and a *pennyworth*¹ of bread at an *alehouse*² near Drury Lane.

12. The effect of the privations and sufferings which he endured at this time was discernible to the last in his temper and his *deportment*³. His manners had never been courtly. They now became almost savage. Being frequently under the necessity of wearing shabby coats and dirty shirts, he became a confirmed *sloven*⁴. Being often very hungry when he sat down to his meals, he contracted a habit of eating with ravenous greediness. Even to the end of his life, and even at the tables of the great, the sight of food affected him as it affects wild beasts and birds of *prey*⁵. His taste in *cooking*⁶, formed in subterranean ordinaries and *alamode* beefshops, was far from delicate. Whenever he was so fortunate as to have near him a hare that had been kept too long, or a meat pie made with *rancid*⁷ butter, he gorged himself with such violence that his veins swelled and the moisture broke out on his forehead. The *affronts*⁸ which his poverty emboldened stupid and low-minded men to offer to him, would have broken a mean spirit into *sycophancy*⁹, but made him rude even to ferocity. Unhappily, the *insolence*¹⁰ which, while it was defensive, was pardonable and in some sense respectable, accompanied him into societies where he was treated with courtesy and kindness. He was repeatedly provoked into striking those who had taken liberties with him. All the sufferers, however, were wise enough to abstain from talking about their beatings, except Osborne, the most *rapacious*¹¹

1. 值一辨士的; 2. 小酒館; 3. 態度; 4. 衣衫襤褸; 5. 攫食; 6. 庖廚; 7. 變壞;
8. 挫辱; 9. 諂媚; 10. 驕傲; 11. 冒利;

每肴值一本尼的六樣；每餚值一本尼的一樣，他噉啖之餘。自謂已極天下之至甘者了。

【十二】他當時所遭遇的艱難和困苦，都流露在他的性情和行動之中，乖戾恣睢竟至最高點。他的狀態毫無敬禮之容，那時候真好似野人的狂放。初爲不得已而穿蔽衣垢履，久後竟成爲不脩邊幅的人了。又因爲時常枵腹，所以當入坐就餐之時，他的貪吃情狀，好似已成了習慣一般。雖是到了晚年的時候，與名公鉅卿接席，要是有他所矚目的佳肴，仍舊如野獸爲鳥之耿耿。他所嗜的佳肴，大都烹製於隧道間有定價的餐館，和阿拉蒙肉店中的，和庖廚之中的相較自然差得遠了。倘使在宴會上，他坐近了一只累月經旬和餒敗不鮮的野兔或是腥羶酥酪所製的餅餌，那正大合脾胃，他就狂吞大嚼，甚至血管奮漲，額汗淋漓。他的寒相因此常令襟懷鄙陋，腸肥腦滿之流，時加凌侮，要是在猥瑣者受之，必致習於卑諂，以求苟合和取容，但是約翰生却要報之以非禮，甚且蕩悍無倫。不過傲慢性情，用以報復那些非禮干涉，那末猶不失爲自高身價，其情還可原宥，所惜的是有時於社會之中，人們都以雍容禮讓與之周旋而他也有時要狂放不羈。人們或者偶然以狎侮觸他動怒，他就報以老拳，如此的情形真是不止一二次哩。凡是受他批打的人，大都是明哲之流，都無不隱忍於中，諱言其事。不過有個奧斯朋的，他這爲人最貪黷最殘酷，

and brutal of booksellers, who proclaimed everywhere that he had been knocked down by the huge fellow whom he had hired to puff the Harleian Library.

13. About a year after Johnson had begun to reside in London, he was fortunate enough to obtain regular employment from Cave, an *enterprising*¹ and intelligent bookseller, who was *proprietor*² and editor of "The Gentleman's Magazine." That journal, just entering on the ninth year of its long existence, was the only periodical work in the kingdom which then had what would now be called a large *circulation*³. It was, indeed, the chief source of parliamentary intelligence. It was not then safe, even during a *recess*⁴, to publish an account of the *proceedings*⁵ of either House without some *disguise*⁶. Cave, however, ventured to entertain his readers with what he called "Reports of the Debates of the Senate of Lilliput." France was Blefuscu; London was Mildendo; pounds were sprugs; the Duke of Newcastle was the Nardac secretary of state; Lord Hardwicke was the Hugo Hickrad and William Pulteney was Wingul Pulinub. To write the speeches was, during several years, the business of Johnson. He was generally furnished with notes—*meagre*⁷ indeed and inaccurate—of what had been said; but sometimes he had to find argument and eloquence, both for the ministry and for the opposition. He was himself a *Tory*⁸, not from rational conviction—for his serious opinion was, that one form of government was just as good or as bad as another,—but from mere passion, such as inflamed the Capulets against the Montagues, of the Blues of the Roman circus against the

1. 進取; 2. 所有者; 3. 銷路; 4. 停議之時; 5. 舉措; 6. 偽飾; 7. 略而不詳;
8. 英國之王黨.

是一個書賈，不論到那兒，他一定告訴人家說，他曾經遭受這個偉丈夫拑擊在地上，至於那個偉丈夫就是他家的傭人，用來揄揚他的哈雷安藏書樓的。

【十三】約翰生住在倫敦約有一年，幸而有凱佛延聘他去，才有托棲之所。凱佛也是以舊書爲業的，那個人很有膽識，是雅言報的主人，此外又任報中的撰述。那報留傳極久，在那時已成立有九年了。在那時定期發刊的報章，在全國之中，僅有雅言報這一種。假使在現在說起來，那報在當時可以說是銷行極廣了，因爲該報對於議院的消息，記載極詳，實在是政聞的淵藪。不過當時對於兩議院的言論舉措，雖在停議的時候，也不敢振筆直書，著爲實錄，須得託詞文飾，因爲不如此即須受種種困難。凱佛毅然將政聞餉讀者，託名爲麗麗泊德國會議論之露佈，他所謂勃來府斯哥的是指法國，米爾登杜是指英嗣，史潑利格是指金磅，那達克祕書長是指紐卡色爾的公爵，休哥歇克辣德是指哈德維克勳爵，溫格爾泊爾納亭是指威廉泊爾吞尼。其中所著議論，約有幾年，都是出於約翰生的手筆。約翰生有時或假議會中的記事而發揮之，但此種記事，大都疏略而不愜當，有時則拓其餘暇，或爲政府，或爲反對黨人，各發揮他的辯才雄論以充篇幅。他實在是王黨中人，但他堅附此黨的理由，非於知識上有所抉擇而然，實不過一種仇視之心，如嘉波里之反對蒙塔格斯，又如羅馬競角場中，偶隸藍旗，那末就與綠旗爲敵罷了。因爲他所持之意見，以爲國家無論爲何種政體，各有優劣之不同，不可遽爲高低。

Greens. In his *infancy*¹ he had heard so much talk about the *villanies*² of the Whigs and the dangers of the Church, that he had become a furious *partisan*³ when he *could scarcely speak*⁴. Before he was three, he had insisted on being taken to hear Sacheverell preach at Lichfield Cathedral, and had listened to the *sermon*⁵ with as much respect, and probably with as much *intelligence*, as any Staffordshire squire in the congregation. The work which had been begun in the *nursery*⁶ had been completed by the university. Oxford, when Johnson resided there, was the most Jacobitical place in England; and Pembroke was one of the most Jacobitical colleges in Oxford. The *prejudices* which he brought up to London were scarcely less absurd than those of his own Tom Tempest. Charles II. and James II. were two of the best kings that ever reigned. Laud, a poor creature who never did, said, or wrote anything indicating more than the ordinary capacity of an old woman, was a prodigy of parts and learning, over whose tomb Art and Genius still continued to weep. Hampden deserved no more honorable name than that of "the zealot of *rebellion*⁸." Even the ship money, condemned not less decidedly by Falkland and Clarendon than by the bitterest Roundheads, Johnson would not pronounce to have been an unconstitutional *impost*⁹. Under a government the mildest that had ever been known in the world, under a government which allowed to the people an unprecedented liberty of speech and action, he fancied that he was a slave; he assailed the ministry with *obloquy*¹⁰ which refuted itself, and regretted the lost freedom and happiness of those golden

1. 稚童年齡; 2. 惡劣; 3. 黨友; 4. 尙未能言; 5. 教會宣講之文; 6. 育嬰之舍;
7. 私見; 8. 犯上作亂之人; 9. 不合憲法之稅; 10. 詆譏.

他在稚齡的時候，就聽慣了民黨的卑劣，和宗教的陸危。所以當他在學話的時候，儼然已成爲急烈的黨友，年紀還沒有三歲，就強人挈往離赤非教堂去聽薩赤佛雷爾的演講。在禮堂之內，廣衆之前，容止肅然的悉心靜聽，他的狀態和史塔福轄的鄉老無異，或者他的領會演講與他們也無相軒輊吧。教養之方，在襁褓基其始者，必於大學竟其功。當約翰生寄跡渥克斯福的時候，英倫中雅各派黨人，剛正在那兒爲最盛，而攀勃洛克學院，更爲此黨之所盤踞的，所以約翰生後至倫敦，還是很挾持成見。至於他的荒謬之處，正和他自述的湯墨台配斯德無異。他的意見以爲卻而司第二及雅姆斯第二是當世的賢君，沒有勝於他們的人。勞德是個可憐的人，依他的言論和行事看來，真不過是一個煦煦的老嫗，但是在約翰生意中正以爲那人的宏才博學。所以藝士才人經過他墓的，還是唏噓憑弔，至今未衰。說到韓泊敦，僅可加以驍悍叛逆之稱呼。至於籌備軍艦之稅，王黨之熱心者如福克蘭暨克拉雷敦，他們的非議也不亞於圓顛黨，但是約翰生對於此項苛征，竟不說他有違憲法。在政府的管轄之下，當時的和平爲世界各國之所未有。至於人民言論行動之自由，更爲從來所無，而以彼思之，則仍自傷爲奴隸，他抨擊當時執政，肆口譏評，在此月旦之中，已不免自相矛盾，

days in which a writer who had taken but one tenth part of the license allowed to him would have been *pilloried*¹, *mangled with the shears*², whipped at the *cart's tail*³, and flung into a noisome dungeon to die. He hated dissenters and stock-jobbers, the excise and the army, septennial *parliaments*⁴, and *continental connections*⁵. He long had an aversion to the Scotch,—an *aversion*⁶ of which he could not remember the commencement, but which, he *owned*⁷, had probably originated in his *abhorrence*⁸ of the conduct of the nation during the Great Rebellion. It is easy to guess in what manner debates on great party questions were likely to be reported by a man whose judgment was so much disordered by party spirit. A show of fairness was, indeed, necessary to the prosperity of the *magazine*⁹. But Johnson long afterwards owned that, though he had saved appearances, he had taken care that the Whig dogs should not have the best of it; and, in fact, every passage which was lived, every passage which bears the marks of his higher faculties, is put into the mouth of some member of the *opposition*¹⁰.

14. A few weeks after Johnson had entered on these *obscure*¹¹ labors, he published a work which at once placed him high among the writers of his age. It is probable that what he had suffered during his first year in London had often reminded him of some parts of that noble poem in which Juvenal had described the misery and *degradation*¹² of a needy man of letters, lodged among the pigeons' nests in the tettering garrets which overhung the streets of Rome. Pope's

1. 上拷； 2. 遭剪刀剖割之刑； 3. 車尾； 4. 國會； 5. 聯絡歐洲各國之政策；
6. 憎惡之心； 7. 自認； 8. 嫌惡； 9. 指雅言報； 10. 反對黨人； 11. 幽暗不明；
12. 陵夷。

還囂囂然咨嗟太息，說着黃金時代的自由幸福，未能再見於今日了，不知當日的文人，他們的放縱之情，僅得到他十分之一的，已是不遭解剖之刑，就要受負枷之辱，或鞭笞於車後，縲紲於獄中。他生平痛恨違背國教和股份投機事業的人，及國貨之稅陸軍之備，議會七年更始之定期，聯絡歐洲大陸之政策。他對於蘇格蘭人久有憎惡之心，這種意思起於何時，他雖不復追憶，但是他自認，或者是因為國家鼎沸的時候，人民對於英國的狀態，有以致其疾首痛心的。但是以堅附一黨之人，抱入主出奴之見，他的判覺的傾向，必定有偏心，用這等人去記載黨派問題，著為議論，他所持的態度，不難懸揣他的如何了。然而表揚公論，實為報章的要素和為繁昌興盛之所關，但是約翰生久後自言，他雖極力顯全外觀，然斷不令彼民黨少占優勝，他的話是如此說，試歷按他至今流傳不磨的名論，和鏤心刻骨，軒昂磊落的文章，則大都果然是託之於王黨黨員之口。

【十四】約翰生自任此幽悶的生涯數星期以後，他就在刊物上刊着一種著作，因此就高據一席於當時的士林，這個或者是由於他第一年僑居倫敦時飽嘗苦趣，有感於瞿文納爾的詩而作的。因為那首佳著是曲繪着羅馬塵囂街市中，某寒士艱苦陵夷之狀，描畫那居於欹側危樓，和螻屈於鴿窠之間的情形。

admirable imitations¹ of *Horace's*² "Satires" and "Epistles" had recently appeared, were in every hand, and were by many readers thought superior to the originals. What Pope had done for Horace, Johnson aspired to do for Juvenal. The *enterprise*³ was bold, and yet *judicious*⁴. For between Johnson and Juvenal there was much in common,—much more, certainly, than between Pope and Horace.

15. Johnson's "London" appeared without his name in May, 1738. He received only ten guineas for this stately and vigorous poem; but the sale was rapid and the success complete. A second edition was required within a week. Those small *critics*⁵ who are always desirous to lower established reputations ran about proclaiming that the *anonymous*⁶ satirist was superior to Pope in Pope's own peculiar department of literature. It ought to be remembered, to the honor of Pope, that he joined heartily in the applause with which the appearance of a rival genius was welcomed. He made inquiries about the author of "London." Such a man, he said, could not long be concealed. The name was soon discovered; and Pope, with great kindness, exerted himself to obtain an academical degree, and the mastership of a grammar school, for the poor young poet. The attempt failed, and Johnson remained a bookseller's *hack*⁷.

16. It does not appear that these two men—the most eminent writer of the generation which was going out, and the most eminent writer of the generation which was coming in—ever saw each other. They lived in very different

1. 摹仿; 2. 樂府專家; 3. 冒險之事; 4. 賢明的; 5. 評論家; 6. 匿名的;
7. 供職書店之寒士

在這個時候，蒲伯的動人的摹效霍雷斯所著的薩他哀爾和愛必斯爾兩詩正是流傳未久，而巳是膾炙一時，人手一編的時候。讀者都說他遠超乎原著。因為蒲伯如何摹效霍雷斯，約翰生就如何摹效瞿文納爾。他毅然爲之，膽力固壯，而穎悟亦不可及。因為約翰生和瞿文納爾同點極多，比蒲伯和霍雷斯相類更甚。

【十五】 約翰生所著倫敦一詩，發見在一七三八年的五月，書上並不署名，他著此鴻篇，僅得十個幾尼，但是銷行極速，真是差不多紙貴一時，未及一星期，已經重刊再版了。有些卑微的評論家，往往喜貶抑聲譽已著的名人，於是奔走相告，說着這個隱名的諷刺詩家，以擬蒲伯所特著的文學，猶遠勝多多哩。蒲伯也隨聲附和竭意稱揚，歡迎此後起文壇之勁敵，像蒲伯這樣的雅度，真是少有。他更訪問着著此倫敦的作者，並且說如此的人，斷不能久於自隱，果然不久就得知主名了。蒲伯更雅意殷勤的爲此青年寒賸的詩人，力圖學位，且命他執預備學校之教鞭，不過事竟中梗，約翰生仍橐筆爲書店之傭。

【十六】 這兩個人，雖同爲當世卓絕的文豪，似乎未嘗相覲，因爲一個所處的時期韶華已逝；一個所處的時期景運方開，就以兩人的社會交際說，也是判如霄壤，

circles,—one surrounded by dukes and earls, the other by starving pamphleteers and index-makers. Among Johnson's associates at this time may be mentioned Boyse, who, when his shirts were *pledged*¹, scrawled Latin versēs, sitting up in bed with his arms through two holes in his blankets, who composed very respectable sacred poetry when he was sober, and who was at last run over by a *hackney coach*² when he was drunk; Hoole, surnamed the metaphysical tailor, who, instead of attending to his measures, used to trace geometrical *diagrams*³ on the board where he sat cross-legged; and the penitent *impostor*⁴, George Psalmanazar, who, after poring all day, in a humble lodging, on the folios of Jewish *rabbis*⁵ and Christian fathers, indulged himself at night with literary and theological conversation at an alehouse in the city. But the most remarkable of the persons with whom at this time Johnson *consorted*⁶ was Richard Savage, an earl's son, a shoemaker's apprentice, who had seen life in all its forms, who had feasted among blue ribbands in St. James's Square, and had lain with fifty pounds' weight of irons on his legs in the condemned ward of Newgate. This man had, after many vicissitudes of fortune, sunk at last into abject and hopeless poverty. His pen had failed him. His patrons had been taken away by death, or *estranged*⁷ by the *riotous profusion*⁸ with which he squandered their bounty, and the ungrateful insolence with which he rejected their advice. He now lived by begging. He dined on venison and champagne whenever he had been so fortunate as to borrow a guinea. If his quest-

1. 當質； 2. 街上公車； 3. 圖； 4. 欺人者； 5. 先生； 6. 交際； 7. 離間； 8. 恣情揮霍。

一個是王公鉅卿仰承管咳；一個是鈔胥錄事，相與周旋。在這個時候，約翰生在相識的中間，可以說說的，有一個卜愛斯；當他把襯衫質與以後，就把氈子蔽體，高坐榻上，在毯子上開兩個洞穴，穿出兩臂而草臘丁的詩詞。當他醒的時候，就著為極嚴肅的聖詩，到他醉了，竟至循上公車輾越其身而過。人們都綽號他為心理學之縫工，他雖業縫紉，但是毫不注意於衣服的量裁，坐起來時常疊着股在板上繪畫各種幾何的形狀。還有個喬治薩爾馬那沙的，名字是偽託的，好為欺人之譚，久後也就懺悔了，這個人長日蟄居陋室，瀏覽猶太和耶教先進的文章，到了晚上就在酒肆中發為文學神學的高談。不過在當時的約翰生所與遊的，最出名的一個是李却薩阜治，那個人本是伯爵的兒子，却降為製履的生徒，在世界各種生活情狀之中，沒有不曾目擊身親的，在聖夏姆斯一區，曾偕藍綬之貴游同宴，以後也曾定罪入獄，脛貫五十磅重的鐵鏈。一再經氣運的變遷，終於墜落生平，以陷入於赤貧之境，他所恃的惟此數寸之筆，但已管城老去，意不中書了。他的覆翼之人，有的死了，生的也復寒心了，因為所贍助的錢，他一入手即供揮霍，以黃金去擲虛牝，對於良友的忠告，一概不聽。到了此時，生計惟有行乞，幸而假得幾尼一枚，他就羊羔美酒儘量飲啖了，

ing had been unsuccessful, he appeased the rage of hunger with some scraps of broken meat, and lay down to rest under the *piazza*¹ of Covent Garden in warm weather, and in cold weather as near as he could get to the furnace of a glasshouse. Yet, in his misery, he was still an agreeable companion. He had an inexhaustible store of *anecdotes*² about that gay and brilliant world from which he was now an *outcast*³. He had observed the great men of both parties in hours of careless relaxation, had seen the leaders of opposition without the mask of *patriotism*⁴, and had heard the prime minister roar with laughter and tell stories not over-decent. During some months, Savage lived in the closest familiarity with Johnson; and then the friends parted, not without tears. Johnson remained in London to drudge for Cave. Savage went to the west of England, lived there as he had lived everywhere, and in 1743 died, penniless and heart-broken, in Bristol jail.

17. Soon after his death, while the public curiosity was strongly excited about his extraordinary character and his not less extraordinary adventures, a life of him appeared, widely different from the catchpenny lives of eminent men which were then a *staple*⁵ article of *manufacture*⁶ in Grub Street. The style was, indeed, deficient in ease and variety; and the writer was evidently too partial to the Latin element of our language. But the little work, with all its faults, was a masterpiece. No finer specimen of literary biography existed in any language, living or dead; and a discerning critic

1. 廊廡; 2. 逸事; 3. 被棄之人; 4. 愛國者; 5. 大宗; 6. 出品。

假使丐而不得，即以餒餘麥屑聊充饑腸，至於憩息的地方，在天氣溫愜的時候，就偃臥在可文德公園廊廡之間，倘使嚴寒，就趨近於暖室洪鐘的所在。但是雖然那個人處於貧窶之中，却依舊是個可親的伴侶。他對於華島的世界，固已久遭屏逐，但是對於其中的故實，記憶極多，好似取之無盡的。他對於兩派政黨，曾睹其息戈解甲雍容休暇的時候，也曾見到反對的黨魁，揭去他愛國熱忱的假面具，而呈露他的真面目，也曾聽到過大臣的歡聲雷動，載笑載言，稱述不甚莊嚴的事。約有數月，約翰生與薩阜治過從很密，隨後却要分別了，當時未嘗不淚下沾襟，約翰生仍留倫敦，以筆墨備於凱佛，至於薩阜治却到英國西部去了，他是無地不可爲家的，各處寄居在他是並沒有相異的地方，到一七四三年，終因一貧如洗，無限傷心，死於勃立史討爾獄中。

【十七】他死後不久，舉世方震詫他的性質的震奇，生平的詭異，至於他的小傳，也就發現在這個時候。當時的名人傳略，實是格勒勃街的大宗出品，都是欺世賺錢的，毫無價值。但這一篇傳文，却迥非其倫，以格律言之，行文實少和協變換之致，作者大概偏嗜臘丁，故於吾國文字中臘丁之資料，用之過分，這是不能替作者瞞藏的。但是這種小品文，雖不免瑕疵，實爲卓卓可傳之作，無論古今文字。他在傳記之中，可謂最精之品了，就是各國也不能與之相比。在精鑒者看他，

might have confidently predicted that the author was destined to be the founder of a new school of English eloquence.

18. The *Life of Savage* was anonymous, but it was well known in literary circles that Johnson was the writer. During the three years which followed, he produced no important work; but he was not, and indeed could not be, idle. The fame of his abilities and learning continued to grow. *Warburton*¹ pronounced him a man of parts and genius, and the praise of Warburton was then no light thing. Such was Johnson's reputation that in 1747 several eminent booksellers combined to employ him in the arduous work of preparing a "Dictionary of the English Language," in two folio volumes. The sum which they agreed to pay him was only fifteen hundred guineas, and out of this sum he had to pay several poor men of letters who *assisted*² him in the humbler parts of his task.

19. The *Prospectus*³ of the Dictionary he addressed to the Earl of Chesterfield. Chesterfield had long been celebrated for the politeness of his manners, the brilliancy of his wit, and the delicacy of his taste. He was acknowledged to be the finest speaker in the House of Lords. He had recently governed Ireland, at a momentous conjuncture, with eminent firmness, wisdom, and humanity; and he had since become secretary of state. He received Johnson's homage with the most winning *gratitude*⁴, and requited it with a few guineas, bestowed, doubtless, in a very graceful manner, but was by no means desirous to see all his carpets blackened with the

1. 著名的評論家; 2. 相助; 3. 小引; 緣起; 4. 和藹可親.

已能預知著書的人，必能獨樹一幟於英國文壇。

【十八】 薩阜治一傳也沒有署明作者的名字，但是在文學界中，都已推定是約翰生的手筆。自此以後，大概有三年，約翰生竟無鴻文鉅製，但他實在是執筆，並不疎懶，他的聲譽，他的學問，依舊長進增高。就是華波登也是聲稱着認為才士。華波登是當日的聞人，一經品題，就可身價倍增，約翰生既負如此的聲望，所以在一七四七年，就有大書舖家，連合延訂他了，履艱登難，編纂英文詞典兩巨冊，至於所允的報酬，為數不過一千五百幾尼，在此數額之中，襄助的人尚須分潤，因為有幾個寒士，曾經稍微為他效勞，相助為理，約翰生又不得不去驅報他們。

【十九】 約翰生把詞典的緣起，呈於恰斯德非爾伯爵之前。恰斯德非爾這個人，為人智慮精瑩，氣宇優美，久以謙恭有禮聞於當時，他在上議院，因為善於詞令，人們都交口稱許，新近操握阿爾蘭的治權，適逢時事岌岌之秋，終於能夠用鎮靜明敏慈惠的手段，拯出於危難，因此遷為國務大臣。他以約翰生企慕之誠，與之款曲周旋，不啻光風霽月，並且又給與他幾個幾尼，至於他的解囊相助，確是出於至誠，但是實不願見此胸襟鹵莽的學子，將倫敦的泥滓，污累他的地毯。

London mud, and his soups and wines thrown to right and left over the gowns of fine ladies and the waistcoats of fine gentlemen, by an absent, awkward scholar, who gave strange starts and uttered strange growls,—who dressed like a *scarecrow*¹ and ate like a *cormorant*². During some time Johnson continued to call on his patron, but, after being repeatedly told by the porter that his lordship was not at home, *took the hint*³, and ceased to present himself at the inhospitable door.

20. Johnson had flattered himself that he should have completed his Dictionary by the end of 1750, but it was not till 1755 that he at length gave his huge volumes to the world. During the seven years which he passed in the drudgery of penning definitions and marking quotations for *transcription*⁴, he sought for relaxation in literary labor of a more agreeable kind. In 1749 he published “The Vanity of Human Wishes,” an excellent imitation of the Tenth Satire of Juvenal. It is in truth not easy to say whether the palm belongs to the ancient or to the modern poet. The couplets in which the fall of Wolsey is described, though lofty and sonorous, are feeble when compared with the wonderful lines which bring before us all Rome in *tumult*⁵ on the day of the fall of Sejanus; the *laurels*⁶ on the doorposts; the white bull *stalking*⁷ towards the Capitol; the statues rolling down from their pedestals; the flatterers of the disgraced minister running to see him dragged with a hook through the streets, and to have a kick at his carcass before it is hurled into the Tiber. It must be owned, too, that in the concluding passage the Christian moralist has

1. 田間鷄鳥之草人; 2. 饕餮; 3. 會其怠旨; 4. 抄錄; 5. 騷亂; 6. 枯樹;
7. 高視闊步。

況且他預宴的時候，往往肴酒狼藉，左則濡染着貴婦的衣衫，右則潑踐在佳賓的背心上，真是一個不留心的，不堪的學者，時而發着無因的跳盪，忽而作怪異的騷擾，衣服好似芻靈，飲啖又似饕餮。此後約翰生以爲他是有恩的，依舊續續的踵門請謁，但是侍者時時說着主人未歸爲辭，約翰生知道了那個意思以後，就絕迹於此慢客之門。

【二十】約翰生自言所著的詞典，必須完成於一七五零年，不意遲至一七五五年，他的偉大的鉅篇，才貢諸當世。在此七年之中，長日勞勞，著爲解說，並博採名語隼辭，用以爲援引的資料。其時又在文字中別開一途，藉以舒彼性情，蘇其勞苦。當一七四九年的時候。他摹效瞿文納爾諷刺篇第十，著成一詩，付諸刊印，名曰人生欲望的浮華。與原書工力悉敵，其間難分高低，換句話說，這兩首詩，幾不辨究爲何人之手筆。那雙疊格的詩，所敘華爾賽的傾覆情形，非不實大聲宏，但是看了他的神工鬼斧的篇章，未免要相形見絀了。因爲原詩敘西健奴斯的顛覆狀態，曲繪着羅馬當時的騷亂情形，能使吾們歷歷的如親見其事。桂樹仆在門檻，白聖的牛徐步入太廟，巍巍的石像由座上踣了下來，當此奸相身繫巨鈎，爲人控引於市上，雖是昔日阿諛承迎之輩，也都爭趨觀看，甚且用足踢他，然後棄擲其屍於梯波河流之中。

not made the most of his advantages, and has fallen decidedly short of the sublimity of his Pagan model. On the other hand, Juvenal's Hannibal must yield to Johnson's Charles; and Johnson's vigorous and *pathetic*¹ enumeration of the miseries of a literary life must be allowed to be superior to Juvenal's lamentation over the fate of Demosthenes and Cicero.

21. For the copyright of "The Vanity of Human Wishes" Johnson received only fifteen guineas.

22. A few days after the publication of this poem, his tragedy, begun many years before, was brought on the stage. His pupil, David Garrick, had in 1741 made his appearance on a humble stage in Goodman's Fields, had at once risen to the first place among actors, and was now, after several years of almost *uninterrupted*² success, manager of Drury Lane Theatre. The relation between him and his old *preceptor*³ was of a very singular kind. They repelled each other strongly, and yet attracted each other strongly. Nature had made them of very different clay, and circumstances had fully brought out the natural peculiarities of both. Sudden *prosperity*⁴ had turned Garrick's head. Continued adversity had soured Johnson's temper. Johnson saw, with more envy than became so great a man, the villa, the plate, the china, the Brussels carpet, which the little mimic had got by repeating, with grimaces and gesticulations, what wiser men had written; and the exquisitely sensitive vanity of Garrick was galled by the thought that, while all the rest of the world was applauding him, he could obtain from one morose cynic, whose opinion it

1. 可憐; 2. 未曾挫折; 3. 教師; 4. 幸福。

至於這個耶教的哲人，在他末節之中，又未嘗點染使之生色，所以這種詩，斷不能望項背於異教的先型，這是衆所公認的，但是易地觀之，瞿文納爾所敘的哈尼勃爾，實有遜於約翰生的却爾司之處，並且約翰生歷敘文人的艱苦，用沈痛的筆，寫排側之情，比較瞿文納爾之扼腕唏噓於諦馬純尼斯和西塞路的厄運之處，實在是遠過之，不得不推爲後來者居上了。

【二十一】這人生欲望的浮華一詩，約翰生買去版權時，僅僅得十五個幾尼呢！

【二十二】這首詩付梓未久，約翰生昔年所著的悲劇，跟着也發現於舞台上了。大隈戛利克是他的高足弟子，在一七四一年開始呈身於古蠻史菲爾的簡陋舞台之上，不意就此知名於時，竟一躍而爲俗人的翹楚。此後聲望日隆，數年來未嘗少挫，等到此時，已爲特路麗麟劇場主任了。他們師弟之間，情誼至爲奇特，相忤好似參商，但是相引又同針芥，兩人之秉性，其始本不相同，因情勢變遷，更判然呈露兩人的異點。突然的得意竟使戛利克掉首於雲衢，但是約翰生還是困處窮途，困頓於愁窟，他目見戛利克起居之適，服御之侈，別墅啊，盤匱啊，陶器啊，波筭的地毯啊，凡此都是優孟衣冠之所得。觀其所描摹的，不過拾人牙慧，襲賢哲之文辭，如鸚鵡之學語，其間也有摹寫他面貌姿勢奇特的地方，因此藉成齷子之名，實陰拜絳帷之賜，雖似約翰生那樣偉大的人物，也終不免嫉妬之心。但是戛利克却負藉甚的聲華，顧後瞻前，見約翰生的意旨，雖已爲時論所踴，亦不敢少存輕視之心。

was impossible to despise, scarcely any compliment not *acidulated*¹ with scorn. Yet the two Lichfield men had so many early recollections in common, and sympathized with each other on so many points on which they sympathized with nobody else in the vast population of the capital, that though the master was often provoked by the monkey-like *impertinence*² of the pupil, and the pupil by the bearish rudeness of the master, they remained friends till they were parted by death. Garrick now brought "Irene" out, with alterations sufficient to displease the author, yet not sufficient to make the piece pleasing to the *audience*³. The public, however, listened, with little emotion but with much civility, to five acts of *monotonous*⁴ declamation. After nine representations, the play was withdrawn. It is, indeed, altogether unsuited to the stage, and, even when *perused*⁵ in the closet, will be found hardly worthy of the author. He had not the slightest notion of what blank verse should be. A change in the last syllable of every other line would make the versification of "The Vanity of Human Wishes" closely resemble the versification of "Irene." The poet, however, cleared by his benefit nights, and by the sale of the copyright of his tragedy, about three hundred pounds, then a great sum in his *estimation*⁶.

23. About a year after the representation of "Irene," he began to publish a series of short essays on morals, manners, and literature. This species of composition had been brought into fashion by the success of "The Tatler," and by the still

1. 揶揄; 2. 漠不關心; 3. 聽衆; 4. 無聊的; 5. 細視; 6. 沽價。

因爲他既爲舉世所歡迎，而惟有這個怪物在起居問訊之中，時雜以熱嘲冷諷，這難怪戛利克欲介介於心了。但這兩個離亦非爾德的同鄉，回思前塵，撫懷疇昔，各有相憐相感之情。在此茫茫人海之中，雖然先生時常被那好似獼猴的弟子，因時以漠不相關之態度所觸怒，那先生也時常以恣睢暴戾的情形去挑釁於學生，但是他們依舊還是朋友，至死爲止。此時戛利克刪訂阿倫一劇，並以之搬演，割裂點竄，在作者固已拂然，而於觀衆仍未足引起興趣，座客雖悉心靜聽，對於這五幕無聊之雄辯，僅有禮重之貌，毫無感動之容。所以此劇演了九次以後，就廢止了。實則此劇的著作，非特斷不適於舞台，就是閉戶觀之，也難使人滿意，那是因爲無韻之篇什，自有體裁，作者竟壹然未窺門徑。試取人欲浮華一什，每於兩行之次，易其字尾的諧聲，去看阿倫，則其格律即絕無差別了。然而這個詩人既享受夜間的專利權，又復賣去悲劇的版權，得價約在三百鎊左右，在他看來，所得之資以爲不少了。

【二十三】自阿倫搬演以後約有一年，約翰生又刊行小品短篇的論著。他的立論以道德儀文文學爲宗，此類文字，實倡始於塔德勒，此後旁觀什誌繼起，那文字更膾炙一時，舉世寔成風尚。

more brilliant success of "The Spectator." A crowd of small writers had *vainly*¹ attempted to rival Addison. "The Lay Monastery," "The Censor," "The Freethinker," "The Plain Dealer," "The Champion," and other works of the same kind, had had their short day. None of them had obtained a *permanent*² place in our literature; and they are now to be found only in the libraries of the curious. At length Johnson undertook the adventure in which so many *aspirants*³ had failed. In the thirty-sixth year after the appearance of the last number of "The Spectator," appeared the first number of "*The Rambler*⁴." From March, 1750, to March, 1752, this paper continued to come out every Tuesday and Saturday.

24. From the first, "The Rambler" was enthusiastically admired by a few eminent men. Richardson, when only five numbers had appeared, pronounced it equal, if not superior, to "*The Spectator*⁵," Young and Hartley expressed their approbation not less warmly. Bubb Dodington—among whose many faults indifference to the claims of genius and learning cannot be reckoned—*solicited the acquaintance*⁶ of the writer. In consequence, probably, of the good offices of Dodington, who was then the confidential adviser of Prince Frederick, two of his Royal Highness's gentlemen carried a gracious message to the printing-office, and ordered seven copies for Leicester House. But these *overtures*⁷ seem to have been very coldly received. Johnson had had enough of the patronage of the great to last him all his life, and was not disposed to haunt any other door as he had haunted the door of Chesterfield.

1. 無效; 2. 永久; 3. 爭上游者; 4. 雜誌名; 5. 雜誌名稱; 6. 納交; 7. 徵求。

當時的一般小著作家，從而效之，都想要和愛迪生角逐，但是才華未逮，終不免刻鵠畫虎之譏。所著的如同雷寺，祕書監，自由理想家，坦白之賈，俠士，以及其餘此類的文字，真是不勝記載，但是大都好似一瞥之優曇，要能夠在文學上占一席的，竟無其物。而現今却視為珍籍，不過是藏在藏書樓中，供考古家的摩挲罷了。終於約翰生瀾然而起，獨於衆人敗衄之途，作入海探驪之舉，著成旅行雜誌一書，直不啻繼旁觀雜誌而中興，因為旅行始出時期，剛剛在旁觀雜誌第三十六年尾聲之後，那種著作是創始於一七五零年到一七五二年的三月份告終。出版的時期是每星期二與六兩日。

【二十四】旅行雜誌開始發刊時，就有一二名人爲之稱讚，當第五期始刊之日，李却德生又復聲稱，此種著作，縱不能凌駕旁觀雜誌，亦當與之抗手。就是楊氏和哈德來也極表其傾倒之誠。至如勃伯杜定敦雖一身多過，然對於才人學士，尚不輕視，現在也要向作者訂交。當時杜定敦方爲菲常狄麗親王之顧問，名重一時。俄而殿下的使者兩人，馳命於印刊之所，令按期呈七册於雷賽斯德的府第，以爲瀏覽的資料。這個或者是杜定敦位望隆崇，得他噓拂之力。但是約翰生對此類的徵求，意態極冷，因為約翰生在夫人先生們的嘉貺，那滋味曾經嘗過多多了，此時已談虎色變，有鑑於恰史脫非爾的覆轍，是時厥後舉世裹足於顯貴之門。

25. By the public "The Rambler" was at first *very coldly received*¹. Though the price of a number was only two-pence, the sale did not amount to five hundred. The profits were therefore very small. But as soon as the flying leaves were collected and reprinted, they became popular. The author lived to see thirteen thousand copies spread over England alone. Separate editions were published for the Scotch and Irish markets. A large party pronounced the style perfect,—so absolutely perfect that in some essays it would be impossible for the writer himself to alter a single word for the better. Another party, not less numerous, *vehemently*² *accused*³ him of having corrupted the purity of the English tongue. The best critics admitted that his diction was too monotonous, too obviously artificial, and now and then *turgid*⁴ even to *absurdity*⁵. But they did justice to the acuteness of his observations on morals and manners, to the constant precision and frequent brilliancy of his language, to the weighty and *magnificent eloquence*⁶ of many serious passages, and to the solemn yet pleasing humor of some of the lighter papers. On the question of *precedence*⁷ between Addison and Johnson, a question which, seventy years ago, was much disputed,—*posterity*⁸ has pronounced a decision from which there is no appeal. Sir Roger, his chaplain and his butler, Will Wimble and Will Honeycomb, the Vision of Mirza, the Journal of the Retired Citizen, the Everlasting Club, the Dunmow Fitch, the Loves of Hilpah and Shalum, the Visit to the Exchange, and the Visit to the Abbey, are known to everybody. But many men and women, even of

1. 視之淡然； 2. 暴烈； 3. 詆； 4. 浮誇； 5. 荒誕； 6. 瑰麗端莊； 7. 優勝；
8. 後人。

【二十五】就公衆說，對於旅行什誌，起初頗形冷淡。雖每冊定價只取便士兩枚，銷數仍不過五百，所以所得利益極微。但後來搜羅故紙，彙集重刊，此編却流傳極廣，僅是英倫一島，他的銷路已達一萬三千，作者還能目見這種盛事。至於銷於蘇格蘭阿爾蘭之商場的，則別版流傳，尚不在此數之中。當時多數學者合成一派，說着他的文格的精細，其中有幾篇，真似百練的精金，雖作者自爲脩改，也不能增刪其一字。但是另有一派，爲數也不亞於前派，詆他不遺餘力，說他文字夾雜，有傷英國的語學的純粹。至於批評家，也說他辭藻無聊，過於做作，往往鋪張揚厲，馴至流於荒誕而失真。但是此等評論家也頗持公論。說他於道德儼文之際，實能審察其精微；抒意遣詞，常擅精工之妙；辯才無礙處，更有中權扼要之長。就是片簡尺幅之文，也能瑰麗端莊，極行文之能事。至於愛迪生與約翰生比較的優劣問題，七十年前，頗多爭辯，及至後人論定，舉世乃無間言。試看羅喬勳爵和他的牧師，和閣人維爾溫伯爾和維爾抗奈孔姆，茂隆之幻影，退隱國民日記，永久之俱樂部。滕牟菲麗赤，喜爾巴與夏倫之情愛，金融市場之見聞，蕭寺遨遊之筆記，凡以上之記載，幾於通國皆知。

highly cultivated minds, are unacquainted with Squire Bluster and Mrs. Busy, Quisquilius and Venustus, the Allegory of Wit and Learning, the Chronicle of the Revolutions of a Garret, and the sad fate of Anningait and Ajut.

26. The last "Rambler" was written in a sad and gloomy hour. Mrs. Johnson had been given over by the *physicians*¹. Three days later she died. She left her husband almost broken-hearted. Many people had been surprised to see a man of his genius and learning stooping to every *drudgery*², and denying himself almost every comfort, for the purpose of supplying a silly, *affected*³ old woman with *superfluities*⁴, which she accepted with but little *gratitude*⁵. But all his affection had been concentrated on her. He had neither brother nor sister, neither son nor daughter. To him she was beautiful as the Gunnings, and witty as Lady Mary. Her opinion of his writings was more important to him than the voice of the pit of Drury Lane Theatre, or the judgment of "The Monthly Review." The chief support which had *sustained*⁶ him through the most arduous labor of his life was the hope that she would enjoy the fame and the profit which he *anticipated*⁷ from his Dictionary. She was gone; and in that vast labyrinth of streets, peopled by eight hundred thousand human beings, he was alone. Yet it was necessary for him to set himself, as he expressed it, doggedly to work. After three more laborious years, the Dictionary was at length complete.

1. 醫生; 2. 辛苦之事; 3. 作偽; 4. 過多; 5. 感激; 6. 扶持; 7. 逆料.

若喧快白拉斯脫與繁忙夫人合傳，屈斯屈麗遇和維納史德勒的詭聞，智慧學識的寓言，嘉雷革命的軼史，和安商坡暨阿蝨德的遭際等篇，知道的人很少，雖在文人閨秀，或者都不知道。

【二十六】旅行雜誌的最後一冊，是著作於憂思惻怛之中的。因為當時約翰生夫人身染重病，醫生決其不起，三日以後果然奄然物化了。以致她的丈夫心房幾裂，痛切悼亡。許多人很奇怪的看到約翰生如此的博學宏才，却屏棄種種人生的樂趣，降心抑志，不憚著作的勞苦，他的意思無非要得富裕之資，以博那老太婆的歡心。至於那個老婦的矯揉造作，冥頑不靈，受了他逾分的供奉，却不感激他的恩情，旁觀的人沒有不以爲奇異的，然約翰生的情愛，實是獨鍾於此老。這是因爲他自己既無昆季之樂，又無兒女之倫，所以他看待老婦，好似她的容貌的佚麗，可與耿甯相比，她的心性聰明，可與瑪麗相比。老婦於他生平著作，要是有所主張，約翰生就奉爲圭臬，比較特路驛劇場的褒貶，和月刊的品評格外的重視。至於約翰生的孜孜矻矻，所以能始終如一而忘其勞苦的緣故，無非是這一種希望在支持他的勇氣，因爲他的前途希望，自信字典告成而後，必能享厚利而負盛名，在老婦必定能夠看到了喜歡的，但是老婦終於逝世了。約翰生在此棋布星羅，繚曲糾紛的街市，居民八十萬之中，現今孑然一身，竟成孤立了。他自述身世說，迫於事勢，他又不得不如牛馬的工作，經過三年的勞苦工作以後，那字典才始告竣。

27. It had been generally supposed that this great work would be dedicated to the eloquent and accomplished nobleman to whom the Prospectus had been addressed. He well knew the value of such a compliment; and therefore, when the day of publication drew near, he exerted himself to soothe, by a show of zeal and at the same time of delicate and judicious kindness, the pride which he had so cruelly wounded. Since the "Rambler" had ceased to appear, the town had been *entertained*¹ by a journal called "The World," to which many men of high rank and fashion *contributed*². In two successive numbers of "The World" the Dictionary was, to use the modern phrase, puffed with wonderful skill. The writings of Johnson were warmly praised. It was proposed that he should be invested with the authority of a *dictator*³, nay, of a pope, over our language, and that his decisions about the meaning and the spelling of words should be received as final. His two folios, it was said, would of course be bought by everybody who could afford to buy them. It was soon known that these papers were written by Chesterfield. But the just *resentment*⁴ of Johnson was not to be so appeased. In a letter written with singular energy and dignity of thought and language, he repelled the tardy advances of his patron. The Dictionary came forth without a *dedication*⁵. In the preface the author truly declared that he owed nothing to the great, and described the difficulties with which he had been left to struggle so forcibly and pathetically that the ablest and most

1. 餽; 2. 投稿; 3. 全權大臣; 4. 怨恨; 5. 弁詞序.

【二十七】來當此皇皇典冊之序文的，衆料必定是辯才博學的貴顯，並且約翰生曾將此書的緣起，陳請於這個人。就是那個人也觀察到此類儀文足以增加他的身價，所以在將屬此書付刊之日，就呈露他的懇摯的熱情，表示他關切的厚意。他也明知當日他凌侮他太過，必定大傷其倨傲之心，所以他竭力找慰藉的方法以平其氣。計自旅行雜誌停刊以後，在城中供人瀏覽的，另外有種著作流行着，叫做世界雜誌。其中執筆的頗多貴顯之流。世界雜誌中曾有二期非常的揄揚他的詞典，試評以當世之新語，可謂以神奇之筆，竭力鼓吹。雖約翰生所著的文章，也稱道得不遺餘力。他們說約翰生足以執文壇的牛耳，在語言文字界中，可推爲全權的大使，就是尊以教王的徽稱，也無愧色。因爲在釋義切音二方面，可以質諸百世而無疑。且謂這兩巨冊的書，必定可以人手一編，這報章上所載的此項文字，不久就發現都是恰史德非爾的文章。但是約翰生的積忿，起初不因此而少解，却毅然作書絕之。耿介之情，流露於字裏行間，直斥他寵賚的太遲。後來詞典告成，竟無人弁諸簡首。作者且於序文之次，自言一空依傍，未曾稍借助於大人先生們的勢力，並且歷敘中間困苦艱難，以孤軍轉戰，獨當其衝。他的排側之情令人愴然生感，雖是精悍驚險如霍恩托克的，平時和他爭名的，不啻深仇夙怨的，每讀此節以後，也要潸然淚下。

*malevolent*¹ of all the enemies of his fame, Horne Tooke, never could read that passage without tears.

28. The public, on this occasion, did Johnson full justice, and something more than justice. The best *lexicographer*² may well be content if his productions are received by the world with cold esteem. But Johnson's Dictionary was hailed with an enthusiasm such as no similar work has ever excited. It was, indeed, the first dictionary which could be read with pleasure. The definitions show so much acuteness of thought and command of language, and the passages quoted from poets, divines, and philosophers are so skilfully selected, that a leisure hour may always be very agreeably spent in turning over the pages. The faults of the book resolve themselves, for the most part, into one great fault. Johnson was a wretched etymologist. He knew little or nothing of any Teutonic language except English, which, indeed, as he wrote it, was scarcely a Teutonic language; and thus he was absolutely at the mercy of *Junius*³ and *Skinner*⁴.

29. The Dictionary, though it raised Johnson's fame, added nothing to his pecuniary means. The fifteen hundred guineas which the booksellers had agreed to pay him had been advanced and spent before the last sheets issued from the press. It is painful to relate that, twice in the course of the year which followed the publication of this great work, he was arrested and carried to *sponging-houses*⁵, and that he was twice indebted for his liberty to his excellent friend Richardson. It was still necessary for the man who had been formally saluted by the highest authority as dictator of the

1. 惡毒的; 2. 著詞典者; 3. 精於條類語學者; 4. 精於條類語學者; 5. 班房。

【二十八】當時舉國人民對於約翰生頗能主持公道，並且還有偏袒他的地方。他原意祇希望社會人士對此著作少存敬禮默許之心，那著詞典的人也可躊躇滿志的了。但是約翰生的詞典，不意竟震動一時，自有詞典著作物出世以來，這是第一次能使人讀之愉快，不生厭倦。至於其中援引詩詞經典，以及哲學名言，也能採擷菁英，善於抉擇。在空閒的時候，展卷一讀，大可為賞心清遣之資。不過全書中的瑕疵也有鑄成大錯的，因為約翰生實然對於字學源流是一個門外漢，他對於條頓的文字，除英語而外，絕無所知，就是有知道的，也是淺顯的東西，而他所謂英語的，也幾非條頓的真蘊，這在他自己也曾說過，因為如此，遂不得不撫拾瞿尼斯和史勁納的唾餘而仰承其鼻息。

【二十九】這詞典的出版，雖足增重約翰生的名望，但是於他的經濟上，却毫無裨益，他的一千五百磅的著書費，書商確允給他酬勞。但是當此書未軼刊印成書的時候，他的銀錢已經完了，這因為他久已預期支入，所以到這時已蕩然無存了。此巨著告成之明年，他竟遭逮捕，幽囚於待質所之中，雖此時泚筆記之，還是要愴然生感的。他兩次恢復自由，全賴好友李却特生的力量。約翰生雖為當世所敬禮，

English language to supply his wants by constant toil. He abridged his Dictionary. He proposed to bring out an edition of Shakespeare by subscription, and many subscribers sent in their names, and laid down their money; but he soon found the task so little to his taste that he turned to more attractive employments. He contributed many papers to a new monthly journal which was called "The Literary Magazine¹." Few of these papers have much interest, but among them was the very best thing that he ever wrote, a masterpiece both of reasoning and of satirical pleasantry, the *review*² of Jenyns's "Inquiry into the Nature and Origin of Evil."

30. In the spring of 1758 Johnson put forth the first of a series of essays entitled "The Idler." During two years these essays continued to appear weekly. They were eagerly read, widely circulated, and, indeed, *impudently*³ *pirated*⁴ while they were still in the original form, and had a large sale when collected into volumes. "The Idler" may be described as a second part of "The Rambler," somewhat livelier and somewhat weaker than the first part.

31. While Johnson was busied with his "Idlers," his mother, who had accomplished her ninetieth year, died at Lichfield. It was long since he had seen her; but he had not failed to *contribute*⁵ largely, out of his small means, to her comfort. In order to defray the charges of her funeral, and to pay some debts which she had left, he wrote a little book in a single week, and sent off the sheets to the press without

1. 雜誌; 2. 評論之文; 3. 無恥貌; 4. 抄襲; 5. 供給.

爲英國語學之擁有全權大使的尊稱的，而他日用所需，仍非時時苦工不可。他拿詞典縮成節本，他又創議集資刊印莎士比亞的遺稿，許多人來預約和留出定洋，不過他着手不久，就覺得此事意味索然，全非他的嗜好，因此就改弦易轍，再找有趣味的去做。當時有始創的月報，名字叫做文學雜誌，他在此中頗多著述，雖名雋可誦者爲數不多，但是其中有一篇評論堅寧研性原惡的那章，不特推斷具見精思，就是諷刺也是淋漓酣暢。實爲他生平的傑作之一。

【三十】 到一七五八年春季，約翰生才把他著成的文章名爲閒話，後來收羅成集，此爲濫觴。此類文字按星期繼續出版，如此約有兩年，人們都喜歡讀他，行銷極廣，甚至初版才出，有無恥的人就剽竊私刊。到後來編集成編，銷路更成鉅數，這閒話的作風似乎好像勝於旅行，又似不及旅行。

【三十一】 當約翰生殫精竭慮，從事於閒話的時候，他的年屆九十的母親，已在立區非爾德逝世了。他雖是久已遠遠色笑，但是未嘗少闕甘旨之奉。雖是所入不多，可是奉母極豐，俾使老人得資頤養。此時他想要籌資去營葬和清償他母親所積欠的錢，因此他以一星期的時間寫成一册小書，將此送至印刷所，也不會稍爲一諷，

reading them over. A hundred pounds were paid him for the copyright; and the purchasers had great cause to be pleased with their bargain, for the book was “*Rasselas*.”

32. The success of “*Rasselas*” was great, though such ladies as *Miss Lydia Languish*¹ must have been grievously disappointed when they found that the new volume from the *circulating library*² was little more than a *dissertation*³ on the author’s favorite theme, the vanity of human wishes; that the *Prince of Abyssinia*⁴ was without a mistress, and the princess without a lover; and that the story set the hero and the heroine down exactly where it had taken them up. The style was the subject of much eager controversy. “*The Monthly Review*” and “*The Critical Review*”⁵ took different sides. Many readers pronounced the writer a pompous pedant, who would never use a word of two *syllables*⁶ where it was possible to use a word of six, and who could not make a waiting-woman relate her adventures without balancing every noun with another noun and every epithet with another epithet. Another party, not less zealous, *cited*⁷ with delight numerous passages in which weighty meaning was expressed with *accuracy*⁸ and illustrated with *splendor*⁹. And both the censure and the praise were merited.

33. About the plan of “*Rasselas*” little was said by the critics, and yet the faults of the plan might seem to invite severe criticism. Johnson has *frequently*¹⁰ blamed Shakespeare for neglecting the proprieties of time and place, and for ascribing to one age or nation the manners and opinions of an-

1. 劇中之主角(其人生平嗜奇情小說,故其一舉一動,咸取法於書中之人物) 2. 書報流通社; 3. 推衍之文; 4. 非洲東部之國(在埃及之南,約翰生不過假託其地而立之非實事); 5. 評論報; 6. 重音; 7. 援引; 8. 精當; 9. 文藻; 10. 往往。

將版權賣了一百磅，當時買稿的人，必定非常快樂了，因為那本稿紙就是拉賽賴斯。

【三十二】拉賽賴斯這本書，風行極盛，雖閨媛中有如麗蝶阿蘭格施其人，偶然在可以租借的藏書樓中，得此新著，或未免悄然失望，誠然，在她們看來，以為是作者不過推衍人欲浮華一書，將其得意之作，易成散文罷了。如亞別新尼阿之青宮，竟無主婦在其中，那公主也竟無承歡之東牀；且故事中所記的那兢兢丈夫和娟娟的懽園，他們如此開場的竟如此終局了。至於他的文章的格調，却大有文人相爭的地方。月旦報和評論報兩種，旗鼓相當，各樹一幟，有多數人說作者炫博矜才，未免失之過當。同一個字，他可以用兩音了結的，他却捨簡而取繁，必強取六音之字去代他，並且絃侍女的自述所遭，和用其此類屬辭之法，必逐字衡其銖兩。但是還有一派，他們的態度起初也不少減於前人，博探他愜心貴當之文，其中有很多至理名言，實屬精確不磨之論，又加上文藻，當然是斐然可觀了。這兩派中的一貶一褒，都能中肯不錯。

【三十三】至於拉賽賴斯的章法。衆論都未提及，不過他的章法的劣點，實有足招人抨擊的地方，約翰生時常譏刺沙氏毗亞的文章往往忽略此時此國之事，強置到他時他國的事情上去，

other. Yet Shakespeare has not sinned in this way more grievously than Johnson. Rasselas and *Imlac*¹, Neakyah and Pekuah, are evidently meant to be Abyssinians of the eighteenth century, for the Europe which Imlac describes is the Europe of the eighteenth century; and the inmates of the Happy Valley *talk familiarly*² of that law of *gravitation*³ which Newton discovered, and which was not fully received, even at Cambridge, till the eighteenth century. What a real company of Abyssinians would have been may be learned from Bruce's "Travels." But Johnson, not content with turning filthy savages, ignorant of their letters and gorged with raw steaks cut from living cows, into philosophers as eloquent and enlightened as himself or his friend Burke, and into ladies as highly accomplished as Mrs. *Lennox*⁴ or Mrs. Sheridan, transferred the whole domestic system of England to Egypt. Into a land of harems, a land of polygamy, a land where women are married without ever being seen, he introduced the *flirtations*⁵ and jealousies of our *ball-rooms*⁶. In a land where there is boundless liberty of divorce, *wedlock*⁷ is described as the indissoluble compact. "A youth and maiden meeting by chance, or brought together by artifice, exchange glances, reciprocate civilities, go home and dream of each other. Such," says Rasselas, "is the common process of marriage." Such it may have been, and may still be, in London, but assuredly not at Cairo. A writer who was guilty of such improprieties had little right to blame the poet who made Hector quote Aristotle, and represented Juilo Romanus as flourishing in the days of the oracle of Delphi.

1. 古詩人; 2. 侃侃而談; 3. 地心吸力; 4. 小說家; 5. 賁媚; 6. 舞場; 7. 婚姻

但是莎士毗亞的罪還不像約翰生那樣大。因為拉賽賴斯和伊墨拉克，奈開耶和配古華，已顯然是十八世紀的亞別新尼阿人了。因為伊墨拉克所敘的歐洲，已明明是十八世紀的歐洲了。因此歡樂谷中的人，侃侃的談奈端所發明地心吸力的公例，至於那個定例雖在坎白利大學，起初還不敢據為定評，直到十八世紀，才翕然引為公例哩。至於亞別新尼阿的真相如何，那末有勃路斯所敘述的遊迹存在着，歷歷可見。約翰生既把那目不識丁，茹毛飲血的蠻族變為哲學大家，吐屬之微妙，智識之通達，幾與約翰生和他的朋友波克毫不相異。就是彼都的女子，也都變為閨閣的名媛，學問的高超足與雷諾克史，休理丹夫人相齊名。不過他的意思尚以為不足，更要變更他的家法，全以英倫的制度灌輸於埃及之中。其地方的姬妾之風極盛，多妻主義在所不禁，女子深藏閨闥，往往問名納采，未嘗以色相示人。他敘述貢媚生妒的情形，全是吾國舞會歡場的景象。那地方的棄妻放妾完全自由，絕無限制。但是他敘述婚媾却視為不可解脫的契盟，他的拉賽賴斯書中說着，男女邂逅相遭，或是有人暗中撮合，彼此注視，款曲相通，既別而歸，彼此縈情於寤寐，這是婚媾之常規。至於這種方法在曩日的倫敦，是如此的，或者至今還是如此。倘使在開羅，可以斷定那事情一定不會如此，那個詩人（指莎士毗亞）雖以海克討而援引亞理史獨德，記周理烏洛蠻諾，而說他興盛於臺爾非靈蹟著異之時。這些小過失，作者加以譏諷，實在有所不韙。

34. By such exertions as have been described, Johnson supported himself till the year 1762. In that year a great change in his circumstances took place. He had from a child been an enemy of the reigning dynasty. His Jacobite prejudices had been *exhibited*¹ with little disguise both in his works and in his conversation. Even in his massy and *elaborate*² Dictionary, he had, with a strange want of taste and judgment, inserted bitter and *contumelious*³ reflections on the Whig party. The excise, which was a favorite resource of Whig financiers, he had designated as a hateful tax. He had *railed*⁴ against the commissioners of excise in language so coarse that they had seriously thought of *prosecuting*⁵ him. He had with difficulty been prevented from holding up the lord privy seal by name as an example of the meaning of the word "renegade." A pension he had defined as pay given to a state hireling to betray his country; a pensioner, as a slave of state hired by a stipend to obey a master. It seemed unlikely that the author of these definitions would himself be pensioned. But that was a time of wonders. George III had ascended the throne, and had, in the course of a few months, disgusted many of the old friends, and *conciliated*⁶ many of the old enemies, of his house. The city was becoming mutinous. Oxford was becoming loyal. Cavendishes and Bentincks were murmuring. Somersets and Wyndhams were hastening to kiss hands. The head of the treasury was now Lord Bute, who was a Tory, and could have no objection to Johnson's Toryism. Bute wished to be thought a patron of men of let-

1. 流露; 2. 精緻; 3. 侮慢; 4. 謾罵; 5. 控訴; 6. 和解。

【三十四】 約翰生如上文所述的終日努力，以贍生活，如此下去直至一七六二年，到那個時候他的生活環境有了大變更。他在幼年時候對於王治就有仇視之心，他偏袒約各派的性質，時常流露於文章言語之中，他絕不少加隱飾。就是他的偉大的詞典，在其中於民黨也多所詆譏，不問其意味判決是否於事理相當與否，國貨稅是民黨經濟家的得意宏猷，他却指為可恨的稅，曾經謾罵過國貨稅務司，言語直率，稅官蓄忿，險些兒去控訴他。他更要舉掌璽大臣之名，釋叛教字義以見例，幸有人竭力阻之，才沒成為事實，但是已經很麻煩了。至於恩卹的費用，他定着解說，指為養賣國奴的錢，凡得恩卹的人，目之為國家的奴隸，這是說國家用微祿去羈縻他，使他帖耳受鞭策。作者既立如此的解說，似乎恩卹決不加在他身上了，豈知運命遷移，適然達到這不可思議的時代，喬治第三既即位以後，在數月之間，宗室中故友之被嫉者極多，而夙憾之受撫者，亦復不少，都中頗滋離畔之憂，渥克史福乃效其忠悃，卡范迪施，班丁克等人民都切切私議，而蘇墨賽脫溫德韓墨等黨都急急的 要自附以親王之手。當時為財政大臣的是布德伯爵，那人本是王黨，與約翰生有同類相求之雅，他們的沆瀣一氣可知，布德要想示恩於儒流，

ters, and Johnson was one of the most eminent and one of the most needy men of letters in Europe. A pension of three hundred a year was graciously offered, and with very little *hesitation*¹ accepted.

35. This event produced a change in Johnson's whole way of life. For the first time since his boyhood, he no longer felt the daily *goad*² urging him to the daily toil. He was at liberty, after thirty years of anxiety and drudgery, to indulge his constitutional *indolence*³, to lie in bed till two in the afternoon, and to sit up talking till four in the morning, without fearing either the printer's devil or the *sheriff's*⁴ officer.

36. One laborious task, indeed, he had bound himself to perform. He had received large subscriptions for his promised edition of Shakespeare; he had lived on those subscriptions during some years; and he could not, without disgrace, omit to perform his part of the *contract*⁵. His friends repeatedly exhorted him to make an effort, and he repeatedly resolved to do so. But, notwithstanding their exhortations and his resolutions, month followed month, year followed year, and nothing was done. He prayed fervently against his idleness; he determined, as often as he received the *sacrament*⁶, that he would no longer doze away and trifle away his time; but the spell under which he lay resisted prayer and sacrament. His private notes at this time are made up of *self-reproaches*⁷. "My indolence," he wrote on Easter Eve in 1764, "has sunk into grosser sluggishness. A kind of strange oblivion has overspread me, so that I know not what has become of the last year."

1. 躊躇; 2. 生活上之逼迫; 3. 懶惰; 4. 地方官; 5. 約、合同; 6. 發誓; 7. 自責。

而約翰生在歐洲之中，正是文士之卓然傑出者，並且很窮，因此以禮相加，每年以三百鎊加卹，而約翰生却毫不躊躇的拜受其賜了。

【三十五】這一件事情，就使約翰生終身的生計在此一變，計算自童子時候到現在，他不爲日常的開支所迫而逐日勞勞於筆墨之中，要算這是第一次了。經過三十年的憂患勞苦，才得到自由的樂趣，得到遂他的疎懶的天性，偃臥榻中，到下午二時才始起來，隨後就坐着高談闊論直到次晨四時才停止，既不畏手民索稿之僮斷，更不畏有司索逋的胥吏。

【三十六】不過還有一件草草勞人的事情，在他是義所當爲的，就是他曾經收集鉅資，作爲刊印莎士比亞遺書的費用，而數年來頗賴此自贍，若不能履行所約而食言，那就不免爲終身的玷辱了。他的好友勉勵着他，屢次忠言勸告，而他自己也時發決心，說着必定要了却此事，但是雖然有朋友的勉勵和他自己的決心，却是終於一月一月的過去，一年一年的過去，卒未成功。他虔心懺禱以自咎他的疎懶之非，發奮之心已不啻信誓旦旦，說着萬不可將如流水般的時光，消磨在夢寐悠忽之中，但是他的徬恍因循，一似困頓於魔力之下，雖是懺禱誓，相與抵抗，而此魔力卒戰勝於無形，故其筆記之中，在當時頗多自責之語，好比他在一七六四年耶蘇復活節之夕的

Easter, 1765, came, and found him still in the same state. "My time," he wrote, "has been unprofitably spent, and seems as a dream that has left nothing behind. My memory grows *confused*¹, and I know not how the days pass over me." Happily for his honor, the charm which held him captive was at length broken by no gentle or friendly hand. He had been weak enough to pay serious attention to a story about a ghost which haunted a house in Cock Lane, and had actually gone himself, with some of his friends, at one in the morning, to St. John's Church, Clerkenwell, in the hope of receiving a communication from the *perturbed spirit*². But the spirit though adjured with all solemnity, remained obstinately silent; and it soon appeared that a naughty girl of eleven had been amusing herself by making fools of so many philosophers. Churchill, who, confident in his powers, drunk with popularity, and burning with party spirit, was looking for some man of established fame and Tory politics to insult and celebrate the Cock Lane ghost in three cantos, nicknamed Johnson Pomposo, asked where the book was which had been so long promised and so liberally paid for, and directly accused the great moralist of *cheating*³. This terrible word proved effectual; and in October, 1765, appeared, after a delay of nine years, the new edition of Shakespeare.

37. This publication saved Johnson's character for honesty, but added nothing to the fame of his abilities and learning. The preface, though it contains some *good passages*⁴, is not in his best manner. The most valuable notes

1. 紛亂; 2. 作祟之鬼怪; 3. 欺誑; 4. 佳處.

日記記着道，「吾的疎懶，一天勝似一天，竟沈頓至於怠荒。好似有一種特異的健忘性籠罩着，所以對於去年的事情毫無所知，竟不能稍微記住一些影象。」到一七六五年耶穌復活節再到臨的時候，情形還是依然如故，他說着「我的光陰，無端浪費，竟如春夢，毫不少留痕跡，我的記憶力，馴至棼若散絲，日月逝於上，吾竟不審其如何而逝。」人們正在竊竊私議，替他的名譽捏着一把危險的汗時候，幸而那束縛他的身心的魔力，一旦竟去了。至於那束縛的魔鬼去的原因，並非出之於友誼和平的勸告，其初在壳克里的某宅，相傳有鬼怪，時常往來其中，約翰生竟輕信他的話，極為注意，於是相偕數人，在某一日親到克勒肯威爾的聖約翰教堂，希望和作祟的鬼去談話，但是那咄咄逼人的鬼，到此時却冥頑不靈，絕無朕兆。沒有多久以後，那事情却暴露了，是一個十一歲的狡獪女郎，借此自娛的。但是當時無數的哲學家，都悉心受他的揶揄播弄，其中有個邱契爾的夙自負其才，心醉於民心的歸附，更中黨派精神之熱，若火之始燃，剛正想要覓取有名於王黨的人，肆其攻擊，因取壳克里的鬼物，作詩三章，肇約翰生之名曰邦波蘇，責問着他久約刊書，得資不薄，所刊的書有在何處，直說他是欺誑。那驚心怵目的篇章，却大生效力，到一七六五年十月間，那沙士毗亞全集的新刊，於是乎行世了，然而已遲延九年了。

【三十七】那集告成以後，在約翰生誠篤的品節固足以保全，但是於其學問的名譽則絕無所益。在序文之中，果然有好的地方，不過還不是文章的超超者。

are those in which he had an opportunity of showing how attentively he had, during many years, observed human life and human nature. The best specimen is the note on the character of Polonius. Nothing so good is to be found even in Wilhelm Meister's admirable examination of Hamlet. But here praise must end. It would be difficult to name a more *slovenly*¹, a more worthless, edition of any great classic. The reader may turn over play after play without finding one happy *conjectural*² *emendation*³, or one ingenious and satisfactory explanation of passage which had *baffled preceding commentators*⁴. Johnson had, in his Prospectus, told the world that he was peculiarly fitted for the task which he had undertaken, because he had, as a lexicographer, been under the necessity of taking a wider view of the English language than any of his predecessors. That his knowledge of our literature was extensive, is indisputable. But, unfortunately, he had altogether neglected that very part of our literature with which it is especially desirable that an editor of Shakespeare should be *conversant*⁵. It is dangerous to assert a negative. Yet little will be risked by the assertion that in the two folio volumes of the English Dictionary there is not a single passage quoted from any *dramatist*⁶ of the Elizabethan age except Shakespeare and Ben. Even from Ben the quotations are few. Johnson might easily, in a few months, have made himself well acquainted with every old play that was extant. But it never seems to have occurred to him that this was a necessary preparation for the work which

1. 支離; 2. 靈警的; 3. 正誤; 4. 排象議而獨標新穎; 5. 精細; 6. 戲劇家。

其中最有意義的記載，莫如因勢以表白他數年來潛心體察世故人情的閱歷，至於結構的最好的地方，莫如闡發波龍尼過史的品性，就是求諸威廉馬史德的韓墨來脫評斷之中，其語爲人們所激賞的，也不過如此罷了。但是所能推許的，也祇以此而止了，因載籍雖博，然欲求一獨標新義較甚於此篇的，實在也不多見。讀者試逐劇反覆去看他，終不能得到有娛悅而有性靈的闡釋，就是在一節之中，也沒有精警愜心的解釋，可以別開蹊徑而勝過前人。約翰生以前在緣起之中，曾經自白於當世，說着身任此事，且有特長，相宜特甚。因爲他夙著詞典，所以曾經博覽羣書，所讀英國典籍之多，遠勝於先賢，他對於吾國文學，見聞的淵博，是無待言。所可惜的，他對於文學的中間，獨忽視其至要的一端，而其事則又爲衆人殷殷所責望者。衆望以爲編定莎士遺書之人，必當有精闢獨到之處，但是事未徵實，僅以莫須有之語斷定之，似乎未免過於唐突了。若徵以兩巨冊的詞典，則章章可考，或不致更貽識者之譏，而歷數詞典之中，其於亞利沙白朝戲曲大家除莎士毗亞和班恩而外竟絕無片言之採擇，卽其於班恩之語援引亦復不多。爲約翰生計者，要當先取流傳的古劇，逐一參觀，爲事非難，不過以數月的餘閒，就能淹貫而融洽，以彼身任編訂而綱繆先事，這是極重要的一點，

he had undertaken. He would doubtless have admitted that it would be the height of absurdity in a man who was not familiar with the works of Æschylus and Euripides to publish an edition of Sophocles. Yet he ventured to publish an edition of Shakespeare without having ever in his life, as far as can be discovered, read a single scene of Massinger, Ford, Dekker, Webster, Marlowe, Beaumont, or Fletcher. His detractors were noisy and *scurrilous*¹. Those who most loved and honored him had little to say in praise of the manner in which he had *discharged the duty*² of a commentator. He had, however, acquitted himself of a debt which had long *lain heavy on his conscience*³, and he sank back into the repose from which the sting of satire had roused him. He long continued to live upon the fame which he had already won. He was honored by the University of Oxford with a doctor's degree, by the Royal Academy with a professorship, and by the King with an interview, in which his Majesty most graciously expressed a hope that so excellent a writer would not cease to write. In the interval, however, between 1765 and 1775, Johnson published only two or three *political tracts*⁴, the longest of which he could have produced in forty-eight hours, if he had worked as he worked on the Life of Savage and on "Rasselas."

38. But, though his pen was now idle, his tongue was active. The *influence*⁵ exercised by his conversation, directly upon those with whom he lived, and indirectly on the whole literary world, was altogether without parallel. His *colloquial*⁶ talents were, indeed, of the highest order. He had

1. 污穢; 2. 盡職; 3. 私心負疚; 4. 關於政治的文章; 5. 影響; 6. 口才。

但他好似未計及此，他於伊思機勒史，尤利比地史兩家的著作，未能融會貫通，却欲刊行蘇福格爾史的遺著，雖在約氏，其必以爲不可思議是沒有疑義的，但是反覆查考他的平生，他是並沒一看馬星格，福德臺客，威勃史脫，馬廬，波芒德，菲來乞諸家的一幕，他却毅然敢刊莎氏的遺著，這是什麼理由呢？所以詆毀之辭，衆口騰沸，就是早時敬愛他的，見到這箋註家的注，也難於說他不錯而稱頌了。但是，在他是了却一重逋負，因爲他私心負疚，已非一日了。祇因受激刺於譏評，驚破他沈沈的酣夢，現在却又可偃臥優游遂其初衷了。他是久享盛名的，並且屢邀寵典，在渥克史福大學得到博士的學位，在洛堯爾學院，得到一席的講座，在當時的王上，他受到寵邀入覲，還給晉優錫，說着如此卓卓的文豪，深願其不廢著作。但是自一七六五至一七七五年之間，約翰生所刊行的文章，僅有關於政治上的兩三篇罷了。倘使他勤勞刻厲與曩著薩阜治小傳和拉賽賴斯沒有相異之處，那末其中最長的一篇，僅須四十八小時就可以完事了。

【三十八】但是，約翰生此時的筆雖懶，他的談鋒却很厲害，他所縱論的影響，直接的以及並世之人，間接的以及文學全界，曠世竟無其儔，他的口才已臻上乘，加之他的天分極高，判別又很敏捷，

strong sense, quick discernment, wit, humor, immense knowledge of literature and of life, and an infinite store of curious anecdotes. As respected style he spoke far better than he wrote. Every sentence which dropped from his lips was as correct in structure as the most nicely balanced period of "The Rambler." But in his talk there were no pompous triad, and little more than a fair proportion of words in "osity" and "ation." All was simplicity, ease, and vigor. He uttered his short, *weighty*¹, and pointed sentences with a power of voice and a *justness*² and *energy of emphasis*³ of which the effect was rather increased than *diminished*⁴ by the rollings of his huge form, and by the *asthmatic*⁵ gaspings and *puffings*⁶ in which the peals of his eloquence generally ended. Nor did the laziness which made him unwilling to sit down to his desk prevent him from giving instruction or entertainment orally. To discuss questions of taste, of learning, of *casuistry*⁷, in language so exact and so forcible that it might have been printed without the alteration of a word, was to him no exertion, but a pleasure. He loved, as he said to fold his legs and have his talk out. He was ready to bestow the overflowings of his full mind on anybody who would start a subject,—on a *fellow-passenger*⁸ in a *stagecoach*⁹, or on the person who sat at the same table with him in an *eating-house*¹⁰. But his conversation was nowhere so brilliant and striking as when he was surrounded by a few friends whose abilities and knowledge enabled them, as he once expressed it, to send him back every ball that he threw. Some of these, in 1764, formed

1. 有力; 2. 允平之論; 3. 語氣激昂; 4. 減少; 5. 喘息; 6. 哮喘; 7. 辨別是非;
8. 同行旅伴; 9. 馬車; 10. 餐室.

所以是辯才無礙，意趣橫生，文學生計的變遷，既見聞博洽，而軼事異聞的故事，又蘊積無窮，就以格調而言，他口中所講述的，實是遠勝於筆述。凡他脫口而出的語句，莫不文從字順的，比旅行上的推敲文字更有過之。不過口述的文字，是沒有炫博三疊的音字，就是語尾有osity和tion的字，也比較用得適當，句句話是明白淺顯，很是有力量，他講尖利的語句，發音也是很有勁，着語和平，有力的頓挫，這幾種，不因他身體的搖動及哮喘而減少效力，有時效力反而會得增加，因為他往往於放言高論的時候，時常哮喘而中止。他疏忽而懶惰的習性，使他不願意伏案久坐，對於他的讖談闊論却是不廢的。偶然的講到學問嗜好，或者辨別是非，他便語語針鋒，直可付印似的，也不須要更改一字，他不過一時的高興，隨隨便便的，沒有甚麼刻意求工的意思。他自言喜歡交股而坐，隨後娓娓清談，不論那一個人打開了談話之端，他便任意的肺腑相見，無論這人是車中旅行的同伴，或者是食物店中的同伴。偶然的為摯友所包圍，這人的知識才力，在約翰生的眼光看起來，謂能返戈相向，能把他所擲的球，一一還擲他的，那末這時他言語的精警，更不可與尋常的人相比擬了，這一類的朋友於一千七百六十四年間組織一個文學會社。

themselves into a club, which gradually became a *formidable*¹ power in the commonwealth of letters. The verdicts pronounced by this conclave on new books were speedily known over all London, and were sufficient to sell off a whole *edition*² in a day, or to condemn the sheets to the service of the *trunk-maker*³ and the *pastry cook*⁴. Nor shall we think this strange when we consider what great and various *talents*⁵ and acquirements met in the little *fraternity*⁶. Goldsmith was the representative of poetry and light literature; Reynolds, of the arts; Burke, of *political eloquence*⁷ and *political philosophy*⁸. There, too, were Gibbon, the greatest *historian*⁹, and Jones, the greatest *linguist*¹⁰, of the age. Garrick brought to the meetings his *inexhaustible pleasantry*¹¹, his *incomparable mimicry*¹², and his consummate knowledge of stage effect. Among the most constant attendants were two high-born and high-bred gentlemen, closely bound together by friendship, but of widely different characters and habits,—Bennet Langton, distinguished by his skill in Greek literature, by the *orthodoxy*¹³ of his opinions, and by the sanctity of his life; and Topham Beauclerk, renowned for his amours, his knowledge of the gay world, his *fastidious taste*¹⁴, and his *sarcastic wit*¹⁵. To predominate over such a society was not easy. Yet even over such a society Johnson predominated. Burke might, indeed, have disputed the supremacy to which others were under the necessity of submitting. But Burke, though not generally a very patient listener, was content to take the second part when Johnson was present; and the club itself, consisting of so many eminent men, is to this day popularly designated as Johnson's Club.

1. 列話；2. 出版；3. 箱篋之作者；4. 餅師；5. 天才；6. 友誼；7. 雄辯；8. 政治哲學；9. 史學家；10. 語言學家；11. 無窮之談諧；12. 不可比之滑稽；13. 正道；14. 精微鑒別；15. 譏諷之才能。

這個會漸漸的於文學界中占有很大的勢力，新出之書，如此會加以評判，不久便可以風行倫敦，而且在一天內可以盡售所印之書。然或有棄之爲無用的廢紙，以供襯箱篋或包餅餌之用，這事很是怪異，然試想到這一個小小的社會中間，有如此的奇才異能之士，參雜其間，則我們亦不以爲異，古爾史密斯對於詩詞及輕快的文字，雷諾爾茲的對於美術，伯爾克的對政治上的討論和政治哲學，都是當時的表表者，更有極朋者則爲偉大的歷史家，瓊斯者爲那時的語言學家，戛利克亦與該會有關係的，他巨量的滑稽突梯，別人所不能摹仿的，舞台上劇情知識的完備，都是出類拔萃的。除常常到該會的會員以外還有二個紳士，他們的出身和教育都是有來歷的，兩人的友誼很密，而他們的習性是不相同的，一爲班奈德蘭敦，他希臘文學優美，見識卓越，一生誠篤，向來是出名的。一爲託爾譜克勒克，他便不拘小節，放誕風流，花月之文，鑒別的精微，亦是素負盛譽的。要曉得主持這一類的團體，是件很不容易的事情，而約翰生他於這一個會社中，竟能愉快勝任，主持一切，他衆望的隆崇，祇有伯爾克足以比衡，其餘的不得不樂爲屈就了。伯爾克在平時不是肯屈服的人，但是約翰生在座的時候，他便自甘居次，即以此俱樂部而言，中間頗不少博學之士，到現在人家都稱他是約翰生俱樂部。

39. Among the members of this *celebrated body*¹ was one to whom it has owed the greater part of its *celebrity*², yet who was regarded with little respect by his brethren, and had not without difficulty *obtained*³ a seat among them. This was James Boswell, a young Scotch *lawyer*⁴, heir to an honorable name and a fair estate. That he was a *coxcomb*⁵ and a bore, weak, vain, pushing, curious, *garrulous*⁶, was obvious to all who were acquainted with him. That he could not reason, that he had no wit, no humor, no eloquence, is apparent from his *writings*⁷. And yet his writings are read beyond the Mississippi and under the Southern Cross, and are likely to be read as long as the English exists, either as a living or as a dead language. Nature had made him a slave and an idolater. His mind resembled those creepers which the *botanists*⁸ call *parasites*⁹, and which can subsist only by clinging round the stems, and imbibing the juices, of stronger plants. He must have fastened himself on somebody. He might have fastened himself on Wilkes, and have become the fiercest patriot in the Bill of Rights Society. He might have fastened himself on Whitefield, and have become the loudest fieldpreacher among the Calvinistic Methodists. In a happy hour he fastened himself on Johnson. The pair might seem ill-matched. For Johnson had early been *prejudiced*¹⁰ against Boswell's country. To a man of Johnson's strong understanding and *irritable temper*¹¹, the silly *egotism*¹² and *adulation*¹³ of Boswell must have been as teasing as the constant *buzz of a fly*¹⁴. Johnson hated to be questioned; and Boswell was eternally

1. 著名團體；2. 著名；3. 得到；4. 律師；5. 執紼子弟；6. 多言；7. 著作品；8. 植物學家；9. 寄生草；10. 偏見；11. 易怒習性；12. 自大；13. 阿諛；14. 青蠅嗡嗡之聲。

【三十九】 這一個會社的所以出名，大半是有賴於會友中的一人，但是這一個人當時不爲人所注意，也不爲會中同伴所敬佩，至於這一個人能列身會中，倒也不是一件平易的事，這一個人便是雅姆斯鮑史威爾。他是蘇格蘭年輕的律師，身出名門，得有巨量的遺產，他是一個紈袴子弟，頗不受人歡迎，更是少年多事，又喜追根究底，喋喋多言，凡是與他相識的人，都明瞭他這一類的習性。他却不能深究事理，也無精明判斷的能力，也無特長之處，及雄辯之才，卽此種種，於他的著作中可見一斑，然而他的著作却傳至密昔西比以外，以至南克洛斯以下。而且竟有世間的英文一日存在，人必誦讀他著作之勢。他天然的性質却是依傍門戶，服從於人，他志趣有同乎蔓草，那便是植物學家所說的寄生草，這草的生長，祇能附於他種植物之幹枝，以吸其樹液，所以他亦依附別人。假使當時附於韋爾克史，則必爭競於民權會黨籍之中，而成爲激烈的政黨，要是他當時附於華愛德非爾，則必於加利非尼教徒中在曠野間爲大聲演講之教師。然而在他優遊閒散的時候，却附於約翰生。此兩人者，似迥不相同，約翰生心性偏僻，素恨鮑斯威爾的故鄉，而且約翰生的爲人，見解聰明，性情暴躁，乃竟有一愚而自用，專喜阿諛之鮑斯威爾與相糾纏，竟如嗡嗡之青蠅。約翰生最恨人的詰難，

*catchising*¹ him on all kinds of subjects, and sometimes propounded such questions as, "What would you do, sir, if you were locked up in a tower with a baby?" Johnson was a *water-drinker*² and Boswell was a *winebibber*³, and, indeed, little better than an habitual sot. It was impossible that there should be perfect *harmony*⁴ between two such companions. Indeed, the great man was sometimes provoked into fits of passion, in which he said things which the small man, during a few hours, seriously resented. Every quarrel, however, was soon made up. During twenty years, the *disciple*⁵ continued to worship the master, the master continued to scold the disciple, to *sneer*⁶ at him, and to love him. The two friends ordinarily resided at a great distance from each other. Boswell practised in the Parliament House of Edinburgh, and could pay only *occasional*⁷ visits to London. During those visits, his chief business was to watch Johnson, to discover all Johnson's habits, to turn the conversation to subjects about which Johnson was likely to say something remarkable, and to fill quarto note-books with minutes of what Johnson had said. In this way were gathered the materials out of which was afterwards constructed the most interesting *biographical*⁸ work in the world.

40. Soon after the club began to exist, Johnson formed a connection less important, indeed, to his fame, but much more important to his happiness, than his connection with Boswell. Henry Thrale—one of the most *opulent*⁹ brewers in the kingdom, a man of sound and cultivated understanding, rigid principles, and liberal spirit—was married to one of those clever,

1. 詰問; 2. 喜飲水者; 3. 好酒之徒; 4. 和平; 5. 弟子; 6. 鄙視; 7. 偶然; 8. 傳記; 9. 富有.

而鮑斯威爾却偏偏喜歡拿了種種的問題相詰問，而且時時用的是這一類的問題，說假定一個老年人與嬰兒同錮於塔中，則老年人將如何呢？約翰生喜歡飲水，鮑斯威爾則喜歡飲酒，雖不是一個非醉不止之徒，但亦相去無幾，以這兩個人，要和平無事的融洽一氣，終非易事。所以此偉大之人，時時被干觸而致發狂怒，在怒時所發的言語，則此弱小之人，於短時間內也所懺悔，自知其鹵莽不當，然而彼此的爭執，不久便可安然無事。在這二十年的中間，弟子仍是崇拜其師，師亦有時怒責他的弟子，或竟鄙視他，但是友愛是還是如舊的。這二個人，平時的居所距離得很遠的，鮑斯威爾任事於愛丁堡的議院。有時偶然的到倫敦，第一件事便是注意約翰生，探討約翰生種種的嗜好，及談論之時，時時變更他的語端，他曉得約翰生必要發生偉論的，所以約翰生之一言一語，皆筆錄於小冊子中間，細瑣不遺，以後他能著為精詳的傳記，來公之於天下後世的，即是用這一種方法所集的資料。

【四十】自從這一個俱樂部成立以後，約翰生所交接的，遠不如與鮑斯威爾結交之對於他的聲名有利益，可是要是爲他私人行樂的緣故，那麼也不是無益的。享利斯雷爾乃是國中一個最富的酒家，他舉止溫文，也有學問，意志是很堅決的，也很富有自由的精神，娶的一個少婦，

kind-hearted, engaging, vain, pert young women who are perpetually doing or saying what is not exactly right, but who, do or say what they may, are always agreeable. In 1765 the Thrales became *acquainted*¹ with Johnson, and the acquaintance *ripened*² fast into friendship. They were astonished and delighted by the *brilliancy*³ of his conversation. They were flattered by finding that a man so widely celebrated preferred their house to any other in London. Even the peculiarities which seemed to unfit him for civilized society—his *gesticulations*⁴, his *rollings*⁵, his puffings, his *mutterings*⁶, the strange way in which he put on his clothes, the *ravenous eagerness*⁷ with which he devoured his dinner, his fits of melancholy, his fits of anger, his frequent rudeness, his occasional ferocity—increased the interest which his new associates took in him. For these things were the cruel marks left behind by a life which had been one long conflict with disease and with *adversity*⁸. In a vulgar hack writer, such *oddities* would have excited only disgust; but in a man of genius, learning, and virtue, their effect was to add pity to admiration and esteem. Johnson soon had an apartment at the brewery in Southwork, and a still more pleasant apartment at the *villa*⁹ of his friends on Streatham Common. A large part of every year he passed in those abodes,—abodes which must have seemed *magnificent*¹⁰ and *luxurious*¹¹ indeed, when compared with the dens in which he had generally been lodged. But his chief pleasures were derived from what the *astronomer*¹² of his Abyssinian tale called “the endearing elegance of female friendship.” Mrs.

1. 認識; 2. 成熟; 3. 光輝; 4. 手勢; 5. 大聲, 高談闊論; 6. 自語; 7. 熱切; 8. 反對; 9. 別墅; 10. 偉大; 11. 美奐美輪; 12. 天文學家。

却是靈心慧質，秉性和愛，她的風韻亦極動人，好事裝飾，舉動活潑，她的言行雖則有時出於正軌，可是她的所言所行，每每能夠恰到人的意思。當一七六五年的時候，斯雷爾夫婦始與約翰生相認識，認識沒有好久便成了很知己的朋友。他們看見約翰生，高談闊論風趣橫生，驚爲未之前遇，又以爲這樣的一個名流，很大的名聲，在倫敦這樣大的地方，乃肯到他們的住所拜會，而不到別人家去，兩人引以爲很大的榮幸。至於他古怪的性僻，參雜在混亂的社會中間，好似很不得當的，然而他手舞足蹈，身體的擺搖，喉間咯咯的聲響，有時自言自語，衣服穿得很是怪異，食的時候狼吞虎嚥，忽然的變形於面，忽然的大聲狂怒，有時倨傲失禮，有時竟是兇殘而且惡狠。在他新交的朋友看起來，簡值是增其眷注。這一種態度，都是一身與病魔憂患困鬪的結果而留下來的創痕，在一個有學識和天才的人，此種怪異的情狀，反而使人憐惜，或竟使人傾倒而加以敬禮呢。沒有好久以後，約翰生於蘇斯窪克酒家中關了一室，於友人的別墅中也關了一室。這別墅在史脫利韓康門，這房間比較在酒家中的更爲適宜。他於這二間房間的中間，過他大一半的光陰。這二間房間，比之以前所處的斗室，固已有天淵之別，後者較勝多多。而他第一件樂意之事，正像他在阿比新尼的書中天文家所言，得紅閨良友之憐惜。

Thrale *rallied*¹ him, soothed him, *coaxed*² him, and, if she sometimes *provoked*³ him by her *flippancy*⁴, made ample amends by listening to his *reproofs*⁵ with angelic sweetness of temper. When he was diseased in body and in mind, she was the most tender of nurses. No comfort that wealth could purchase, no *contrivance*⁶ that womanly *ingenuity*⁷, set to work by womanly compassion, could devise, was wanting to his sick-room. He requited her kindness by affection pure as the affection of a father, yet delicately tinged with a gallantry which, though awkward, must have been more flattering than the attentions of a crowd of the fools who gloried in the names, now *obsolete*⁸, of buck and *maccaroni*⁹. It should seem that a full half of Johnson's life, during about sixteen years, was passed under the roof of the Thrales. He accompanied the family sometimes to Bath, and sometimes to Brighton, once to Wales, and once to Paris.

But he had at the same time a house in one of the narrow and *gloomy*¹⁰ courts on the north of Fleet Street. In the *garrets*¹¹ was his library, a large and *miscellaneous*¹² collection of books, falling to pieces, and begrimed with dust. On a lower floor he sometimes, but very rarely, regaled a friend with a plain dinner,—a veal pie, or a leg of lamb and *spinach*¹³, and a rice pudding. Nor was the dwelling uninhabited during his long absences. It was the home of the most extraordinary *assemblage*¹⁴ of inmates that ever was brought together. At the head of the establishment Johnson had placed an old lady named Williams, whose chief recommendations were her blindness and her poverty. But, in spite

1. 譏笑; 2. 勸誘; 3. 激怒; 4. 刻薄語; 5. 責備; 6. 結構; 7. 卓越; 8. 陳腐; 9. 登徒子之流; 10. 幽暗; 11. 窄狹之處; 12. 雜類; 13. 菠菜; 14. 會集

斯雷爾女士對於約翰生，有時用婉言譏笑，有時或以謊言慰藉，但有時因用鋒利的語言，致觸約翰生之忿怒，那時便同安琪兒溫良之狀態，靜聆約翰生的呵責，以爲補救的方法。有時約翰生於身心方面，有了疾病，則她又細膩的撫慰他，這一種安慰不是金錢所能夠買到的，她一種體貼入微，更非其他的婦女所能及到的，在他病室的裏面，沒有一樣是缺少的，約翰生報答她的盛意，則亦敬愛頻加，他的敬愛之情，却無異於老父之對待愛女。然亦有些輕輕痛惜之心，雖沒有顯明的表示，態度或有些不自然，然而遠勝於一般蠢蠢無情者，此種粗魯談愛之徒，即所謂登徒子之流。在這十六年的光陰中，約翰生在她家盤桓計去這光陰的大半數。他有時同他的家人同遊巴斯，勃立登，而且也到過威爾斯及巴黎各一次。

他同時於勿利脫街的北面，還有一個居處，那便在窄狹幽暗院落的中間，一角危樓，爲他藏書的所在，紛亂無序，堆着許多的書本，參差錯雜，埃塵爲滿。樓的下層，他有時用普通菜款待賓客，但這類事是很少的。有時用羊肉所製的饅頭，或以羊腿雜以菠菜，還有米做的糕而已。他雖久出不歸，但這住所並非無人居住，彙集品性不同的伴侶，成了一個空前絕後的會集，便是這一個家室。約翰生侍奉一個老嫗，於此會集中她居首席，這侍奉的緣故因她是貧而盲，她名叫威廉墨斯，他也不管嫗的怨怒，

of her murmurs and reproaches, he gave an *asylum*¹ to another lady who was as poor as herself, Mrs. Desmoulins, whose family he had known many years before in Staffordshire. Room was found for the daughter of Mrs. Desmoulins, and for another destitute damsel, who was generally addressed as Miss Carmichael, but whom her generous host called Polly. An old quack doctor named Levett, who bled and dosed coal-heavers and *hackney-coachmen*², and received for fees crusts of bread, bits of bacon, glasses of *gin*³, and sometimes a little copper, completed this strange *menagerie*⁴. All these poor creatures were at constant war with each other and with Johnson's negro servant Frank. Sometimes, indeed, they transferred their hostilities from the servant to the master, complained that a better table was not kept for them, and railed or *maundered*⁵ till their benefactor was glad to make his escape to Streatham, or to the Mitre Tavern. And yet he who was generally the haughtiest and most irritable of mankind, who was but too prompt to resent anything which looked like a slight on the part of a purse-proud bookseller, or of noble and powerful patron, bore patiently from *mendicants*⁶, who but for his bounty must have gone to the work-house, insults more provoking than those for which he had knocked down Osborne and bidden defiance to Chesterfield. Year after year Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Desmeulins, Polly and Levett, continued to *torment*⁷ him and to live upon him.

41. The course of life which has been described was interrupted in Johnson's sixty-fourth year by an important event. He had early read an account of the Hebrides, and

1. 救濟院； 2. 貨車之御者； 3. 淡酒； 4. 治病之方法； 5. 呵責； 6. 相依爲生者； 7. 紛擾。

更救濟另外一個婦女，這婦女的貧苦，與上述的老嫗不相上下，她叫岱斯摩林史，昔日在施塔福轄之間，他也深知她的家世，更拓一席之地以容岱斯摩林史之女，並一零丁的孤女，人家都叫她樁米佳兒的，然而她仁慈的屋主人，則叫之爲璞麗。尚有老醫一人，名叫雷佛德，僅爲運煤驅車的御夫，放血以爲治療，所得的勞金，僅麵包的餘屑，以及數片的瘦肉，或是淡酒數杯，皆可以爲報酬，有時亦得少數的銅幣。他萬生的園地，可說無缺。這幾個貧苦的人，往往互相尋事，有時與約翰生的黑奴弗蘭克相傾軋，有時竟由奴僕的緣故，而遷怒於主人，責他不供給較佳的設備，有時竟致詈罵，嘵嘵不休，反而使他好意的主人，欲免是非，逃避到史脫利韓之間及米脫塔文地方的旅舍，始得安然無事，稍伸其氣。最奇怪的，約翰生的習性平時秉性驕慢，又是最易發怒，故看到有錢的書賈，有財有勢的人，一露輕視的態度，卽足以使他怨恨。在他門下仰息之人，要不是他以資幫助，那末一定都要流入卑田院中了，但是他們却凌侮他比之奧斯朋恰史德菲爾爲尤劇。他對於奧斯朋報之以拳，對於恰史德菲爾則寫信以絕交，而獨於他扶養之人，竟能平心靜氣，忍氣吞聲的對付，豈不大奇。一年年的過去，威廉墨斯，岱斯摩林史，璞麗及雷佛德却依舊的時時對他加以凌辱，但是也照舊的倚他生活。

【四十一】 上面所述的生活狀態，到約翰生六十四歲的時候，才因一件要事而生波折。

had been much interested by learning that there was so near him a land peopled by a race which was still as rude and simple as in the Middle Ages. A wish to become intimately acquainted with a state of society so utterly unlike all that he had ever seen, frequently crossed his mind. But it is no probable that his *curiosity*¹ would have overcome his habitual *sluggishness*², and his love of the smoke, the mud, and the cries of London, had not Boswell *importuned*³ him to attempt the adventure, and offered to be his squire. At length, in August, 1773, Johnson crossed the Highland line, and plunged courageously into what was then considered, by most English men, as a dreary and perilous wilderness. After wandering about two months through the Celtic region, sometimes in rude boats which did not protect him from the rain, and sometimes on small *shaggy*⁴ ponies which could hardly bear his weight, he returned to his old haunts with a mind full of new images and new theories. During the following year he employed himself in recording his adventures. About the beginning of 1775, his "Journey to the Hebrides" was published, and was, during some weeks, the chief subject of conversation in all circles in which any attention was paid to literature. The book is still read with pleasure. The *narrative*⁵ is entertaining; the *speculations*⁶, whether sound or unsound, are always ingenious; and the style, though too *stiff*⁷ and pompous, is somewhat easier and more graceful than that of his early writings. His *prejudice*⁸ against the Scotch had at length become little more than matter of *jest*⁹; and whatever remained

1. 好奇心; 2. 疎懈; 3. 自任; 4. 毛髮蓬鬆; 5. 記載; 6. 觀察; 7. 刻意經營; 8. 偏見; 9. 笑話.

他昔年曾讀希伯立茲的記載，曉得這地相距很近，居於該處的人民很是簡樸，與中古時代相彷彿，時時的橫梗在心中，要到是地一遊，因他想這種社會，與他所接觸的不同。但是倘然沒有鮑斯威爾自願任爲導師，他或決不遠征，而樂居於倫敦的烟霧之中，日處泥塗鬧市之內，因他好奇的心理，也未必足以勝他疎懶的習性咧！後來到一七七三年的八月，約翰生乃經過邊界的高原，毅然的投身於當時所謂荒涼險惡之處，因爲那時的英人，都有這種觀念。約經二個月的遊歷，到開爾帝克的部落，有時在不能避風雨的破舊的船中，有時騎在毛髮鬆軟小馬的背上，小馬幾乎不能載他的重量，然後遊罷歸來，仍到他舊駐之地，而他的心中，却帶回了不少的新的印像與新的理想。到了明年，他做了這壯遊的記載以爲消遣。到了一七七五年的開始，他所作希伯立茲的遊記，付印成書。數星期內，要是注意文學的社會，莫不談及此書，這書雖到現在，使讀者仍有無窮趣味。論到書中敘事，則曲折有緻，以見解而言，則匠心獨運，至文氣雖是老氣橫秋，鋪張揚厲，然一比他少年時期的作品，已和平多矣，他厭恨蘇格蘭人的偏見，

of the old feeling had been *effectually*¹ removed by the kind and respectful hospitality with which he had been received in every part of Scotland. It was, of course, not to be expected that an Oxonian Tory should praise the Præsbyterian polity and *ritual*², or that an eye accustomed to the hedgerows and parks of England should not be struck by the bareness of Berwickshire and East Lothian. But even *censure*³ Johnson's tone is not unfriendly. The most enlightened Scotchmen, with Lord Mansfield at their head, were well pleased. But some foolish and ignorant Scotchmen were moved to anger by a little unpalatable truth which was mingled with much *eulogy*⁴, and *assailed*⁵ him, whom they chose to consider as the enemy of their country, with libels much more dishonorable to their country than anything that he had ever said or written. They published paragraphs in the newspapers, articles in the magazines, sixpenny pamphlets, five-shilling books. One *scribbler*⁶ abused Johnson for being *blear-eyed*⁷; another, for being a pensioner, a third informed the world that one of the doctor's uncles had been convicted of *felony*⁸ in Scotland, and had found that there was in the country one tree capable of supporting the weight of an Englishman. Macpherson, whose "Fingal" had been proved in the "Journey" to be an *impudent forgery*⁹, threatened to take vengeance with a cane. The only effect of this threat was, that Johnson *reiterated*¹⁰ the charge of forgery in the most *contemptuous*¹¹ terms, and walked about, during some time, with a *cudgel*¹², which, if the impostor had not been too wise to encounter it, would assuredly have descended upon him, to

1. 後來; 2. 儀典; 3. 考察; 4. 譽美; 5. 使怒; 6. 作家; 7. 目疾; 8. 竊盜罪; 9. 欺騙者; 10. 再述; 11. 輕視; 12. 巨棍。

已多時成爲笑話的資料，即昔日情感中所留，也爲事實所消散，以他在蘇格蘭得到厚意的款待。要望渥克斯福的王黨，稱揚長老會中的儀典文制，或以習見倫敦籬園的眼光，而不駭異到勃維克轄與束路節安的貧乏，事實方面所不可能的，雖有加以貶辭之處，但約翰生於語氣之間，總加以曲諒，所以保全友誼。蘇格蘭明達之人以曼施非爵士居首，莫不傾折其言，私衷告慰，然蘇格蘭中無識之徒，反爲他袒直之言所激怒，不知此袒直之言，中多頌美之意。愚人不察，以爲鄉黨的仇敵，盡力攻擊，誹謗他的言語，適足有辱他們自己的鄉里，正更甚於約翰生之所說所著，他們更於新聞紙上載短篇文詞，或刊論說於定期刊物之上，又刊爲六辨士或五先令之小冊子，竟有一人詆譏約翰生患有目疾，還有一人說他全靠恤金過活，還有一人著文而告天下說約翰生之父曾在蘇格蘭處死刑，說在他的國中，得到一樹，足以超過一英人之重量。另有馬克菲生者指所刊蘇格蘭遊記爲專事欺人，並擬以鞭笞爲復仇的工具。此種恐嚇之結果，使約翰生用嚴重之辭，反覆陳明這種謗語爲虛妄，所以出外散步，每持巨棍，若此詆譏之人，與之相值，必爲巨棍所擊無疑，

borrow the *sublime*¹ language of his own epic poem. "like a hammer on the red son of the furnace."

42. Of other assailants Johnson took no notice whatever. He had early resolved never to be drawn into controversy; and he *adhered*² to his resolution with a *steadfastness*³ which is the more extraordinary because he was, both intellectually and morally, of the stuff of which controversialists are made. In conversation he was a singularly eager, acute, and *pertinacious*⁴ disputant. When at a loss for good reasons, he had recourse to *sophistry*⁵; and when heated by *altercation*⁶, he made unsparing use of sarcasm and *invective*⁷. But when he took his pen in his hand, his whole character seemed to be changed. A hundred bad writers misrepresented him and reviled him; but not one of the hundred could boast of having been thought by him worthy of a *refutation*⁸, or even of a retort. The Kenricks, Campbells, MacNicol, and Hendersons did their best to annoy him, in the hope that he would give them importance by answering them. But the reader will in vain search his works for any allusion to Kenrick or Campbell, to MacNicol or Henderson. One Scotchman, bent on vindicating the fame of Scotch learning, defied him to the combat in a *detestable*⁹ Latin *hexameter*¹⁰:—

"Maxime, si tu vis, cupio contendere tecum."

But Johnson took no notice of the challenge. He had learned, both from his own observation and from literary history, in which he was deeply read, that the place of books in the public estimation is fixed, not by what is written about them, but by what is written in them; and that an author whose

1. 偉大; 2. 附屬; 3. 堅決; 4. 犀利, 固執; 5. 學識, 詭辯; 6. 爭論; 7. 笑罵俱全; 8. 反詰; 9. 乏味; 10. 六韻體詩。

拿他所著敘事詩的豪語說起來，正如以大鉄鎚來擊洪爐中的赤鐵了。

【四十二】 他有堅決的意志，不易被人引誘，牽入論辯之中，他常有這個決心，而且很有毅力的，這一點很是詭異的，因為他於學問道德方面，他却俱有一個辯論家的一切要件，而且他於談話的時候，語言鋒利，有時即使不能得到精確的原理，他就用詭辭為補救，或在雄論時激動情感，那便喜笑怒罵，滔滔不絕，不肯稍示弱意。然而當他執筆為文，則他的性質又不相同，謗毀他的人不下百數，而百人之中，却沒有一個值得約翰生的一顧。約翰生視為不值與之一辯，有時他竟置之不睬。如甘利克，坎潑培爾馬克尼客爾，亨特生等，都想挑撥生與彼等爭論，藉以增高他們的身價，但是讀者即使遍讀約翰生之著述，對於這許多人也沒有一言提及，另有一個蘇格蘭人，想要保持蘇文的名譽，引用臘丁詩中不入耳的一語與約翰生相爭論，這詩為六韻體，意謂偉大之人，如不以為嫌，願一決雌雄。然而約翰生對於他的爭論，毫不介意，他深悉書本之地位，為人所推重的緣故，有一定的原則，不在書本外的評判，而在書本本身文字的結構。

works are likely to live is very unwise if he *stoops*¹ to *wrangle*² with *detractors*³ whose works are certain to die. He always maintained that fame was a *shuttlecock*⁴, which could be kept up only by being beaten back as well as beaten forward, and which would soon fall if there were only one *battledore*⁵. No saying was oftener in his mouth than that fine *apothegm*⁶ of Bentley, that no man was ever written down but by himself.

43. Unhappily, a few months after the appearance of the "Journey to the Hebrides," Johnson did what none of his *envious*⁷ assailants could have done, and to a certain extent succeeded in writing himself down. The disputes between England and her American colonies had reached a point at which no *amicable*⁸ *adjustment*⁹ was possible. Civil war was evidently impending; and the ministers seem to have thought that the eloquence of Johnson might with advantage be employed to *inflame*¹⁰ the nation against the opposition here, and against the rebels beyond the Atlantic. He had already written two or three tracts in defence of the foreign and domestic policy of the government; and those tracts, though hardly worthy of him, were much superior to the crowd of pamphlets which lay on the counters of Almon and Stockdale. But his "Taxation no Tyranny" was a pitiable failure. The very title was a silly phrase, which can have been recommended to his choice by nothing but a jingling alliteration which he ought to have despised. The arguments were such as boys use in debating societies. The pleasantry was as awkward as the

1. 降格; 2. 爭鬪; 3. 謗毀者; 4. 毬子; 5. 棍擊; 6. 至理名言; 7. 嫉妒; 8. 和平;
9. 允平; 10. 激怒。

而作者的著作，希望傳於後世，不是徒然與人爭論所可得，而謗毀者之作品，則不久可以自然消滅。這種見解，約翰生深得力於平時閱歷及所常閱之文學史中，可謂得學問之真道。約翰生常有一種見解，以謂名譽者猶如一個毬子，此種玩意兒祇有往還不斷的擊拍，則可往還而不停止，若僅用槌一擊，則墜落可立而待，他口中常常說的，即班德來的名言，「天下的人不能以筆墨貶人，惟有著作者的自貶罷了」。

【四十三】很不幸的自希伯立茲遊記發現數個月之後，攻擊他的人所不能為者，他竟自為，而以筆墨自貶身價。這個時候英倫與美洲屬地間的爭執，已趨於不易和平解決的景象。內亂之端，已漸逼近，朝廷上執政之人，每思若以約翰生之才學，用以鼓勵民氣，近則反對國內之持異論者，遠則遏制大西洋以外的叛徒。這時約翰生已寫了二三篇贊助政府政策的文章，這類的文字，在他雖未為特長，比之亞孟，史托克代兒店中所蒐集的冊子則高明得多，然而他所著賦稅非專制政策的一書，成為千里之一蹶。即是這一個標題，已成佞屈，其所以如此選擇者，惟取其首字之雙聲，在他本人當非薄不屑，立論之語，無殊於學董之於辯論會之詞，那滑稽諧謔的態度好似河馬蠢笨的戲跳。

gambols of a *hippopotamus*¹. Even Boswell was forced to own that in this unfortunate piece he could detect no trace of his master's powers. The general opinion was, that the strong faculties which had produced the Dictionary and "The Rambler" were beginning to feel the effect of time and of disease, and that the old man would best consult his credit by writing no more.

44. But this was a great mistake. Johnson had failed, not because his mind was less vigorous than when he wrote "Rasselas" in the evenings of a week, but because he had foolishly chosen, or suffered others to choose for him, a subject such as he would at no time have been *competent*² to treat. He was in no sense a *statesman*³. He never willingly read, or thought, or talked about, affairs of state. He loved biography, literary history, the history of manners; but political history was *positively*⁴ *distasteful*⁵ to him. The question at issue between the colonies and the mother country was a question about which he had really nothing to say. He failed, therefore, as the greatest men must fail when they attempt to do that for which they are unfit; as Burke would have failed if Burke had tried to write *comedies*⁶ like those of Sheridan; as Reynolds would have failed if Reynolds had tried to paint landscapes like those of Wilson. Happily, Johnson soon had an opportunity of proving most signally that his failure was not to be ascribed to intellectual decay.

45. On *Eastern Eve*⁷, 1777, some persons, deputed by a meeting which consisted of forty of the first booksellers in London, called upon him. Though he had some scruples about doing business at that season, he received his visitors

1. 河馬; 2. 優長的; 3. 政治家; 4. 絕對; 5. 無趣味; 6. 戲劇; 7. 取蘇復活節前夕。

甚至使鮑斯威爾也無由作違心之論，直認他的窮索於此不幸之篇中殊不能得幾微跡象以見其函丈之才。大都的意思是說他的大才，往時賴以成詞典旅行諸書的，未免精力就衰，此時已漸露老病侵尋的狀態，爲此老人計算，從此不著書也未始非保全令名的途徑。

【四十四】但是這却錯誤了，約翰生所以失敗的緣故，並非是由於他的精力少遜於往時的以一星期朝晚而成賴賽拉斯一書。他的失敗是由於他的貿然自擇，或且聽人選擇一題，爲他所不擅者而竟去做他的緣故。他本來不是政治家，於國家政事向不願瀏覽澄思，或是去討論他，他所喜歡的是傳記，文學，風俗等史。要是政治的話，於他就無興趣了，因爲一個問題發起於屬地和母國之間的，在他實爲一種無可插言的問題，所以他的失敗，也像旁的偉人想嘗試於所不相宜的事情，這是沒有不失敗的。譬如伯爾克要想勉著喜劇，如休理丹所爲，則伯爾克必失敗，譬如雷諾爾蘇想要勉繪風景如韋爾生所畫，則雷諾爾蘇亦必失敗，幸而約翰生爲日未久，就得到時機，足以顯然證明這失敗的緣故，不能歸咎於才力的衰敗。

【四十五】一七七七年耶穌復活節之前一夕，有幾個人去探訪約翰生，這幾個人是由倫敦領袖書賈四十家集議後所委派來的，雖然約翰生於彼時經營事業，不無有所懷疑，

with much *civility*¹. They came to inform him that a new edition of the English poets, from Cowley downwards, was in *contemplation*², and to ask him to furnish short biographical *prefaces*³. He readily undertook the task, a task for which he was preëminently qualified. His knowledge of the literary history of England since the Restoration was *unrivalled*⁴. That knowledge he had derived partly from books, and partly from sources which had long been closed,—from old Grub Street traditions; from the talk of forgotten *poetasters*⁵ and *pamphleteers*⁶ who had long been lying in parish vaults; from the recollections of such men as Gilbert Walmesley, who had conversed with the wits of Button; Cibber, who had *mutilated*⁷ the plays of two generations of dramatists; Orrery, who had been admitted to the society of Swift; and Savage, who had rendered services of no very honorable kind to Pope. The biographer, therefore, sat down to his task with a mind full of matter. He had at first intended to give only a paragraph to every minor poet, and only four or five pages to the greatest name. But the flood of *anecdote*⁸ and *criticism*⁹ overflowed the narrow channel. The work, which was originally meant to consist only of a few sheets, swelled into ten volumes,—small volumes, it is true, and not closely printed. The first four appeared in 1779, the remaining six in 1781.

46. The "Lives of the Poets" are, on the whole, the best of Johnsons works. The narratives are as entertaining as any novel. The remarks on life and on *human nature*¹⁰ are eminently shrewd and profound. The criticisms are often excellent,

1. 禮節; 2. 計畫; 3. 序文; 4. 非常; 4. 無敵; 5. 作短詩者; 6. 著小書者; 7. 割開; 8. 掌故; 9. 評論; 10. 天性.

但是他款接諸客，却很有禮。他們告訴約翰生說着英國詩人自考來以下，刊爲一種新著，他們現在正在計畫之中，要請他各別的簡略地做一個小傳。約翰生就允許擔任此事，因爲他於此事，實在有特長的資格去編輯。他對於英國的文學史自從復古時代以後的知識，可謂是舉世無雙。他所得的知識，一半是由於書籍，一半是由於歷年的從事於此。好比格勒勃街故舊的傳聞，又如舉世都已忘懷，略諳吟哦小有著述而久已物化的言論，又或追憶如是的人，好比極爾白德渥墨斯來，他曾與勃登咖啡館中的才士談過話，好比西白爾，他曾割裂兩代戲曲家的劇本，好比奧勃利，他曾廁身於雪夫德社會之中，好比薩阜治他曾效力於蒲伯，所以這個傳記家，坐而從事於斯，而胸中的資料，蘊積殆滿。他起初想於小詩家僅予以一節之文，於大名鼎鼎的人，也不過僅給他四五頁罷了，但是掌故如洪流奔集，評論又波翻浪湧，竟橫溢此一線之溝渠，他起初僅欲以數紙了却的，却擴張而成爲卷了，卷帙叢小，行數疎朗，當然是瞞不過去的。首四卷發見於一七七九年，其餘六卷是發見於一七八一年。

【四十六】 那詩家列傳，以全體說，實是約翰生的最佳的著作。他的敘事的娓娓動聽，真與小說差不多，詞鋒之及於世故人情的，又超超乎敏妙而精微，他的評論又多極好的文字，

and, even when grossly and *provokingly*¹ unjust, well deserve to be studied; for, however *erroneous*² they may be, they are never *silly*³. They are the judgments of a mind *trammelled*⁴ by prejudice and deficient in sensibility, but vigorous and acute. They therefore generally contain a portion of valuable truth which deserves to be separated from the *alloy*⁵, and at the very worst they mean something, — a praise to which much of what is called criticism in our time has no pretensions.

47. Savage's "Life" Johnson reprinted nearly as it had appeared in 1744. Whoever, after reading that life, will turn to the other lives, will be struck by the difference of style. Since Johnson had been at ease in his circumstances, he had written little and had talked much. When, therefore, after the lapse of years, he *resumed*⁶ his pen, the *mannerism*⁷ which he had contracted while he was in the constant habit of elaborate composition was less *perceptible*⁸ than formerly; and his diction frequently had a *colloquial ease*⁹ which it had formerly wanted. The improvement may be discerned by a skilful critic in the "Journey to the Hebrides," and in the "Lives of the Poets" is so obvious that it cannot escape the notice of the most careless reader.

48. Among the lives the best are, perhaps, those of Cowley, Dryden, and Pope. The very worst is, beyond all doubt, that of Gray.

49. This great work at once became popular. There was, indeed, much just and much unjust censure; but even those who were loudest in blame were attracted by the book in spite

1 激憤; 2 錯誤; 3 笨; 4 蔽; 5 燕雜之詞; 6 更親, 拿起; 7 習慣; 8 易見, 顯明; 9 口吻自然.

雖然有時鹵莽偏激，然大都琅琅可誦，因為他無論如何錯誤，他終不落一死語。雖那些判決力是出之於偏見私心，並且又短於識別之性，不過判詞都是沈雄而精銳，故其文字時有一節可寶貴之真理，這應當由蕪詞中分別的。即其中最不堪的，也未嘗無所命意。此類評斷，非今日一般評論所能企望的。

【四十七】約翰生重刊的薩阜治一傳，與一七四四年所發行的那本，大概沒有什麼區別，無論何人，讀此傳後，再讀他傳，必定要奇怪着他格調的不同。因為約翰生自從處景裕如以後，著述少而談論多，到後來，歲月遷移，他更親筆墨，則當日習以為常刻意求工的文字，較諸往時，已漸漸的消滅於無形了。但是詞句之間，却時有一種口吻自然的情調，為前此所絕無的。他文境的精進，在希伯立茲的遊記中，精鑒家大都能辨明他，而在詩人之列傳中，尤其的顯然可觀了，就是遇有疏略的讀者，也能明悉他的。

【四十八】在此列傳之中，最佳的，要算是老來，特雷登和蒲伯諸傳，最劣的當然是格雷無疑了。

【四十九】這種大著作，一時風行海內，當時的譴責之詞，不論適當的和不適當的，果然不少。不過縱使其人謗詞最酷烈，亦竟不能自主而醉心於此書。

of themselves. Malone computed the gains of the publishers as five or six thousand pounds. But the writer was very poorly remunerated¹. Intending at first to write very short prefaces, he had stipulated for only two hundred guineas. The booksellers, when they saw how far his performance had surpassed his promise, added only another hundred. Indeed, Johnson, though he did not despise; or affect to despise, money, and though his strong sense and long experience ought to have qualified him to protect his own interests, seems to have been singularly unskilful and unlucky in his literary bargains. He was generally reputed the first English writer of his time, yet several writers of his time, sold their copyrights for sums such as he never ventured to ask. To give a single instance, Robertson received four thousand five hundred pounds for the "History of Charles V.;" and it is no disrespect to the memory of Robertson to say that the "History of Charles V." is both a less valuable and a less amusing book than the "Lives of the Poets."

50. Johnson was now in his seventy-second year. The *infirmities*² of age were coming fast upon him. That inevitable event of which he never thought without horror was brought near to him, and his whole life was darkened by the *shadow of death*³. He had often to pay the cruel price of longevity⁴. Every year he lost what could never be replaced. The strange dependents to whom he had given shelter, and to whom, in spite of their faults, he was strongly attached by habit, dropped off one by one; and in the silence of his home he regretted even the noise of their scolding-matches. The kind and gener-

1. 報酬; 2. 病弱; 3. 死亡影象; 4. 享大壽而受許多苦惱。

馬龍尼暗地裏記着賣書人所獲的利益，不下五六千磅。不過著書人所得的報酬，實在是可憐。他起初本想著作極簡短的弁言，所以僅以二百幾尼定約，書商到後來見到他所著的，遠過於他所約定的，就增加數目，不過也祇加上了一百磅。約翰生對於財物，並非有輕視的心思，也非僞爲不屑，因爲他於此很受到過音響，所以他也要保守一身的利益，無如每遇筆墨生涯與人訂約，却獨拙於自謀，失計極多。當那個時候，他的英名卓卓，推爲英國第一等著作家，然而當時有數文人，鬻其版權，能得之數，乃爲彼萬不敢向人啓口的，舉一個例罷，洛勃生著卻爾司第五的歷史，得價是四千五百磅，但是卻爾司第五的歷史還不及詩人列傳之可寶貴而有趣味，這個並非緬契洛勃生有所輕褻而言的。

【五十】此時他的年紀已經是七十二歲了，老病之磨折他的身體，其來也愈快，人生所不能倖免之事，他偶然想到了卽足悚然而懼的，乃日趨於逼近。他學生的事業，有死亡的翳障於前，漸漸的開淡而無生趣。他不過獲享遐齡，乃時價慘酷的代價，每年必喪失他所不能恢復的種種，凡諸怪異仰給之徒，爲彼所蔭庇的，縱其人有種種悖謬之處，他與他們過從仍是很密，已習以爲常了。而今一一彫謝，他住在這沉寂的家中，甚至回憶到他們的詬誶交謫之聲，也要潛然生悲哩。

ous Thrale was no more, and it would have been well if his wife had been laid beside him. But she survived to be the *laughing-stock*¹ of those who had envied her, and to draw, from the eyes of the old man who had loved her beyond anything in the world, tears far more bitter than he would have shed over her grave. With some estimable and many agreeable qualities, she was not made to be independent. The control of a mind more steadfast than her own was necessary to her respectability. While she was restrained by her husband,—a man of sense and firmness, indulgent to her taste in trifles, but always the undisputed master of his house,—her worst offences had been *impertinent jokes*², *white lies*³, and short *fits of pettishness*⁴ ending in sunny good-humor. But he was gone; and she was left an *opulent*⁵ widow of forty, with strong sensibility, *volatile fancy*⁶, and slender judgment. She soon fell in love with a music-master from Brescia, in whom nobody but herself could discover anything to *admire*⁷. Her pride, and perhaps some better feelings, struggled hard against this degrading passion; but the struggle irritated her nerves, soured her temper, and at length endangered her health. Conscious that her choice was one which Johnson could not approve, she became desirous to escape from his inspection. Her manner towards him changed. She was sometimes cold and sometimes *petulant*⁸. She did not conceal her joy when he left Streatham; she never pressed him to return; and if he came unbidden, she received

1. 笑柄; 2. 唐突之戲言; 3. 平白的詭語; 4. 猝然發怒; 5. 富有的; 6. 思慮外溢;
7. 羨; 8. 無禮。

他的仁厚而寬惠的斯雷爾也永訣而不可再見了。倘使他的妻子能夠相從於地下豈不很好，但是她竟不死，貽當日忌彼之人以笑柄，更使平日非常愛她的老人涕淚潛然，他的酸楚比較揮淚於她的坟上，更加慘烈。那婦人有可敬的地方，並且又多宜人的地方，但使她孤立，則迥非所宜，必須有強毅之心，較勝於她的，指揮而左右之，始足保全她的品節。她的故夫的爲人，很有見識，凡遇小屑的事情，就縱容她，至於家政就要自主，不許參與，當她被她的丈夫約束的時候，她最大的過失，也不過唐突的戲言，至於平白地的誑語，或是無端的狂怒，也不過發了一下，終究是要含笑迎人的。但是斯雷爾死亡了，竟使他的妻子，年齡還不過四十歲而竟成爲擁資富厚的孀婦了。他的情感正在強健的當兒，心旌又搖搖無主，沒多少時就鍾情於一個來自勃來希阿的樂師，那個人實在是一無可取，雖遍天下，也斷無傾倒之人，所傾倒的祇有她了，她的驕傲的性情，及良善的感情和這降抑的情慾相激戰，那激戰非常的觸怒了她的腦筋，久後竟於她身體的健全也受到非常的損害。她自知所愛的人，約翰生決不贊同，因此就避去約翰生的監察，她對於約翰生的態度於此大變，她有時就做出嚴冷的態度，有時做出無禮的態度，到後來約翰生離開史脫利韓的時候，她的喜悅的情形，竟也毫不掩飾，也不勸約翰生歸來，要是有時約翰生突然的來了，她款接他的情形，

him in a manner which convinced him that he was no longer a welcome guest. He took the very intelligible hints which she gave. He read, for the last time, a chapter of the Greek Testament in the library which had been formed by himself. In a solemn and tender prayer, he commended the house and its inmates to the Divine protection, and, with *emotions*¹ which *choked*² his voice and *convulsed*³ his powerful frame, left forever that beloved home for the gloomy and desolate house behind Fleet Street, where the few and evil days which still remained to him were to run out. Here, in June, 1783, he had a *paralytic*⁴ stroke, from which, however, he recovered, and which does not appear to have at all impaired his intellectual faculties. But other *maladies*⁵ came thick upon him. His asthma *tormented*⁶ him day and night. *Dropsical symptoms*⁷ made their appearance. While sinking under a complication of diseases, he heard that the woman whose friendship had been the chief happiness of sixteen years of his life had married an Italian *fiddler*⁸, that all London was crying shame upon her, and that the newspapers and magazines were filled with allusions to the Ephesian *matron*⁹ and the two pictures in "Hamlet." He *vehemently*¹⁰ said that he would try to forget her existence. He never *uttered*¹¹ her name. Every memorial of her which met his eye he *flung into the fire*¹². She, meanwhile, fled from the laughter and hisses of her countrymen and countrywomen to a land where she was unknown, hastened across Mont Cenis, and learned, while passing a merry Christmas of *concerts*¹³ and *lemonade*¹⁴ parties at Milan, that the great man with whose name hers is *inseparably*¹⁵ associated had ceased to exist.

1. 情緒; 2. 破聲; 3. 顫動; 4. 風痺; 5. 病; 6. 痛苦; 7. 水腫; 8. 琴師; 9. 女子; 10. 厲害; 11. 聲市; 12. 於諸火中; 13. 音樂會; 14. 檸檬; 15. 不能分的。

使約翰生自己也感覺自此以後已經不能爲彼歡迎的客人了。約翰生對於那婦人的諷刺，心中很明白，他就在他自備的書室之中，讀着希臘聖約一章，這是他最後一次了，在嚴肅慈愛祈禱之中，他就將那屋宇和他的家人都託與上帝保佑了。他中懷的感動，竟至哽咽得不成聲了，他雄偉的軀幹，也顫動得不能自主了，隨後就和那心愛家庭的永訣，退居到在那弗里街的後面，幽閑枯寂的故屋之中。他所餘的日子也不多了，當時疾病又多，在一七八三年的六月，他忽然中了風痺的病，後來倒好了，並且那病對於他的心思才力並無損失。不過其他的病却也不斷的襲來，他的哮喘的病，日夜困頓，又發見水疝的現象。當他委頓於疾病之中的時候，忽然聞到他的女友，那交誼爲他生平十六年中所最快意的，現在她竟嫁給了一個意大利的琴師，因此致遍倫敦的人們，莫不衆口一辭的斥她爲無恥，報章雜誌又滿載映射之語，以愛非身女子與韓墨來說中圖畫二幀相引喻，所以他斷斷地說着，他要極力的去忘却她，永不再提她的名字，凡她的種種紀念物，偶爲目光所觸，他就投諸火中。當時那婦人忽忽的過西尼斯嶺到一處地方，那地方她並無相識的人，在此避去同鄉士女的訕笑指摘，等到在密蘭與會颯舉度耶穌誕日，開音樂之會，傳檮欒之杯，集聚着賓客，這時才知道那個偉人，他與她兩兩相傳至今不復離析的，已長辭人世的去了。

51. He had, in spite of much mental and much bodily affliction¹, clung vehemently to life. The feeling described in that fine but gloomy paper which closes the series of his "Idlers" seemed to grow stronger in him as his last hour drew near. He fancied that he should be able to draw his breath more easily in a *southern climate*², and would probably have set out for Rome and Naples, but for his fear of the expense of the journey. That expense, indeed, he had the means of *defraying*³; for he had laid up about two thousand pounds, the fruit of labors which had made the fortune of several publishers. But he was unwilling to break in upon this *hoard*⁴, and he seems to have wished even to keep its existence a secret. Some of his friends hoped that the government might be induced to increase his pension to six hundred pounds a year; but this hope was disappointed, and he resolved to stand one English winter more. That winter was his last. His legs grew weaker; his breath grew shorter; the fatal water gathered fast, in spite of incisions which he—courageous against pain, but timid against death—urged his surgeons to make deeper and deeper. Though the tender care which had mitigated his suffering during months of sickness at Streatham was withdrawn, he was not left desolate. The *ablest physicians*⁵ and surgeons attended him, and refused to accept fees from him. Burke parted from him with deep emotion. Windham sat much in the sick-room, arranged the *pillows*⁶, and sent his own servant to watch at night by the bed. Francis

1. 痛苦; 2. 南部的氣候; 3. 支付; 4. 儲蓄物; 5. 名醫; 6. 枕。

【五十一】約翰生不顧到他身心上的種種疾病，還是盡量的保身不息，他的感觸之情以前抒寫在他的敏妙而沈寂的報章之中的，不料此紙就結束了他的閒話雜誌。當此行將衰頹的時候，他的感想似乎漸滋就長日益加強了。他懸想着果然能夠到南部去居住，溫煥的氣候，於呼吸上可較為適宜，倘使他不怕旅行費用的話，他早已作羅馬與奈白爾斯之行了，實則此項旅費，他有力足以支持，因為他曾積儲得約有二千金磅，終身的精力，曾使幾個書商擁資致富的，這一些也就是他的結果了。但是他不願解散此已集之數，甚且牢守勿失，幾欲以為祕藏。他的幾個朋友，竊欲使政府增加他的每年的卹金至於六百磅，但是此願未償。因此他計劃再在英國度過一冬，不料這冬季就是他的末日了。他的體力日弱，呼吸日促，狀狀之水疔，雖竟體創痕纍纍，創口日見其深，而其來仍驟，忽然間又復膨脹了。所謂創痕的，就是他鼓着勇氣，忍痛畏意以拒死，強醫士為他醫治的，然細微熨貼的看護，如前此臥病數月於史脫墨韓之間，足以減少他的痛苦的，現在已不能再得了。不過並不至於無人顧念，內外科最好的醫生，都盡心為他診治，並且醫費都却而不受，勃爾克臨別時很感動悲愁，溫德韓常坐在他的病室中為他理枕，此外又命他的家僕，夜間在他的牀前坐守。

Burney, whom the old man had cherished with fatherly kindness, stood *weeping*¹ at the door; while Langton, whose piety eminently qualified him to be an *adviser*² and *comforter*³ at such a time, received the last pressure of his friend's hand within. When at length the moment, dreaded through so many years, came close, the dark cloud passed away from Johnson's mind. His temper became *unusually*⁴ patient and gentle; he ceased to think with *terror of death*⁵ and of that which lies beyond death; and he spoke much of the mercy of God and of the propitiation of Christ. In this *serene*⁶ frame of mind he died, on the 13th of December, 1784. He was laid a week later in Westminster Abbey, among the eminent men of Whom he had been the historian,—Cowley and Denham, Dryden and Congreve, Gay, Prior, and Addison.

52. Since his death, the popularity of his works—the “Lives of the Poets” and perhaps “The Vanity of Human Wishes” excepted—has greatly diminished. His Dictionary has been altered by editors till it can scarcely be called his. An allusion to his “Rambler” or his “Idler” is not readily apprehended in literary circles. The fame even of “Rasselas” has grown somewhat dim. But, though the celebrity of the writings may have declined, the celebrity of the writer, strange to say, is as great as ever. Boswell's book has done for him more than the best of his own books could do. The memory of other authors is kept alive by their works, but the memory of Johnson keeps many of his works alive. The old philosopher is still among us in the brown coat with the

1. 哭; 2. 忠告者; 3. 勸慰者; 4. 非常; 5. 怕死; 6. 安靜。

佛蘭西史波奈是那老約翰生常以慈父的恩意去撫育的人，則依着門狂泣，蘭敦是居敬存誠的人，當這個時候最足爲勸導慰藉的人，和那老人作最後的握手。終於他每年所惴惴可怕的日子相逼近臨了，幽暗之雲，在約翰生的心上渙然散去了，他的性情變爲非常堅忍而柔和，他不再想死是可怕了，死以外的種種也不再想起了，不過極言上帝的慈悲，與耶穌的爲人贖罪。他死的時候心情極朗澈平和，死的年份是一七八四年十二月十三日。一星期以後，就安葬在韋思明史德大寺之中，列入偉人之間，那些偉人正是他生時爲他們做過傳文的。例如：考來，丹韓，特雷登，康格里佛，葛愛，璞拉奧，愛迭生等幾人。

【五十二】 自他死了以後，他的著作的流行，除去詩人列傳，和人欲浮華外，大大的減少了。他的詞典，經編輯者的一再修削，已不能算是他的原著了。再說到他的旅行雜誌和閒話，就是文人之中，一時也未能就知道，而那賴塞拉斯的名聲，也漸漸的減下來了。但是他的著作的聲譽，雖是日復就衰，但不過作者的令名，他的偉大，仍與往時無異，這是很奇怪的，因爲鮑斯威爾的書爲他揄揚，較他一己的著述所自見的，實在遠過得多。他人的記念，多是借着他的著作而傳名的。但是約翰生的記念，他的著作反賴別人而傳名的。那個老哲學家，至今還在人們的心目之中，穿着櫻色的衣服，綴着金屬的鈕扣，

metal buttons, and the shirt which ought to be at wash, blinking, puffing, rolling his head, drumming with his fingers, *tearing*¹ his meat like a tiger, and swallowing his tea in oceans. No human being who has been more than seventy years in the grave is so well known to us. And it is but just to say that our *intimate acquaintance*² with what he would himself have called the *anfractuositie*³ of his intellect and of his temper serves only to strengthen our conviction that he was both a great and a good man.

1. 嚼; 2. 知友, 好友; 3. 千迴百折.

他的內衣，真應當洗洗了，雙眸灼灼，喘息咻咻，他的頭左右動搖，彈着他的指好似桴鼓，吃肉好似狼吞，飲茶好似海鯨。死後已過了七十年之久，還爲吾輩所聞名的就是那個人了。以公論去斷他，凡吾輩之所習審而彼自謂其才智性情千迴百折迴不猶人的，僅足使吾輩毅然斷定，他是世上的賢豪。

國民政府內政部註冊給照



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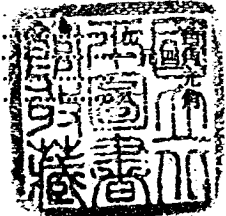
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