

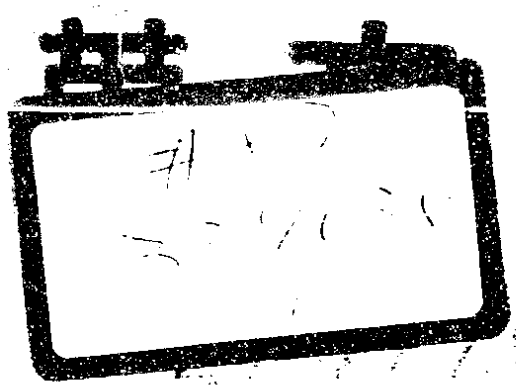
香 露 水

厄 斯 武
夏 史



W.H. White 牌

梁 國 香 露



英文小叢書之一

厄斯忒哀史

梁遇春譯註

上海

北新書局印行

1931

William Hale White

(1831—1913)

他的父親是一家書鋪的老板，一個有幽默趣味同卓然自立的性格的人，又是一個不服從英國國教的人。他的童年是在恬靜的鄉下裏過去，後來到大學攻神學，因為他具有懷疑精神被開除了。此後的生涯就平淡地過去，在政府各機關裏做事。他喜歡研究天文學，自己蓋兩個觀象台，他覺得天文學是我們精

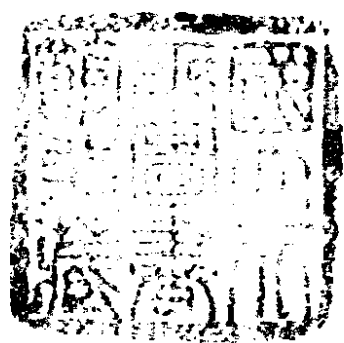
確智識的象徵，藉此我們可以擴張我們的心境，對於人生得到一種合理的自信態度。這方面和那愛星空的歌德很有些相似。

他譯了斯賓羅薩 (Spinoza) 的倫理學，著有幾本長篇小說（都不是很長的）：The Autobiography, The Deliverance; The Revolution in Tanner's Lane, Miiams' Schooling, Catharine Furze, Clara Hopgood。第一本和第二本是帶了自傳性質，是極誠懇動人的自剖文字。此外還有幾篇短篇小說和討論宗教，文學，哲學種種問題的文章。

他的創造的主要情調是悲哀，一種默默的惆悵。他既不讚頌人生，也不呪詛人生，只是懷個悽然的心境來觀察人生，描寫人生。

這大概是因爲他的本質是 melancholy 罷。他和其他具有哀怨情懷的作家一樣，寫出極恬靜清晰的散文，是近代一位散文名家。

史 哀 忒 斯 厄



WILLIAM HALE WHITE

(MARK RUTHERFORD)

(1831—1913)

ESTHER

Blackdeep Fen, 24 Nov. 1838.

My dear Esther,—This is your birthday and your wedding-day, and I have sent you a cake and a knitted cross-over,¹ both of which I have

1. Cross-over——a kind of woman's wrap that crosses in front 胸前沒有開口的女

厄斯忒 哀史

布拉克第普·樊，二十四日，

十一月，一八三八年。

我親愛的厄斯忒，——今天是你的生日，也是你結婚的紀念日，我寄給你一塊餅，一件毛織的背心，這兩件東西都是我自己製的。

衣。

made myself. I can still knit, although my eyes fail a bit.¹ I hope the cross-over will be useful during the winter. Tell me, my dear, how you are. Twenty-eight years ago it is since you came into the world. It was a dark day with a cold drizzling rain, but at eleven o'clock at night you were born, and the next morning was bright with beautiful sunshine. Some people think that Blackdeep must always be dreary at this time of year, but they are wrong. I love the Fen country. It is my own country. This house, as you know, has belonged to your father's forefathers for two hundred years or more, and my father's old house has been in our family nearly as long. I could not live in London; but I ought not to talk in this way, for I hold it

1. a bit——a little 有些; 稍微。

我還能夠編織，雖然我的眼力比以前弱些了。我希望這件背心冬天裏於你有用。我親愛的，告訴我你的近況罷。你來到世界已經二十八年了。那是一個陰天，下着淒冷的微雨，夜裏十一點鐘你生下來，第二早却有美麗的陽光照耀着。有些人以為布拉克第普在這季裏一定老是陰鬱的，但是他們錯了。我愛樊這個地方。牠是我的家鄉。這座屋子，你知道，屬於你父親的祖宗已經有二百年了，或者還不止；我父親的老屋在我們家裏幾乎也有這麼悠久的歷史。我在倫敦住不下去，但是我不該這樣說，因為我認為那是錯的，使人不滿于他所無法避免的事情。你的兄弟小傑是一個再好

to be wrong to set anybody against what he has to do.¹ Your brother Jim² is the best of sons. He sits with me in the evening and reads the paper to me. He goes over to Ely market every week. He has his dinner at the ordinary,³ where many of the company drink more than is good for them,⁴ but never once has he come home the worse for liquor.⁵ I had a rare⁶ fright a little while ago. I thought there was something⁷ between him and one of those Stanton girls at Ely. I saw she was trying

1. 這裏所說的‘無法避免的事情’是指厄斯忒不能不住在倫敦，因為她的丈夫是在那裏幹事情。

2. Jim——外國人叫親熱的人時候，常將名字縮短。Jim 這個字就是 James 的簡稱，此外也有把牠減做 Jem, Jemmy, Jimmy 等等。其牠的例子如 John 只喊做 Jack, Thomas 喊做 Tom; Elizabeth 喊做 Bessy 等等皆是。

3. ordinary——這字本來的意義是人們在旅館裏或者其牠公共食堂裏所用的通常的，

不過的兒子。他晚上陪我坐，念報紙給我聽。他每星期到伊里市場一次。他就在那裏飯店用餐，同座的人們有許多喝酒太多，但是他從來沒有一次回家時現出醉酒的神氣。不久以前，我有一個大恐慌。我那時猜他同伊里地方斯坦吞家裏一位姑娘有些關係。我看出她想抓到他。這場風波現在完全過去了。她是一位城裏姑娘，愛擺架子的，花費許多錢在她衣服上面，絕不能做

有定價的餐膳。後來販賣常餐的館子也叫做 ordinary 了。

4. to drink more than is good for them——喝了超過與他們有益的分量的酒；就是喝得太多了的意思。

5. the worse for liquor——因為酒而失却常態；醉了。

6. rare——great 大。

7. something——有些事情，不能看清，所以只是這麼模糊地說着。

to catch him. It is all off¹ now. She is a town girl, stuck-up,² spends a lot of money on her clothes, and would have been no wife for Jim. She would not have been able to put her hand to³ anything here. She might have broken my heart, for she would have tried to draw Jim away from me. I don't believe, my dearest child, in⁴ wedded love which lessens the love for father and mother. When you were going to be married what agony I went through! It was so wicked of me, for it was jealousy with no cause. I thank God you love me as much as ever. I wish I could see you again at Homerton, but the journey made me so ill last winter that I dare not venture just yet.—

1. off——discontinued 過去了。

2. stuck-up——arrogant, conceited 驕傲；擺架子。

3. to put one's hand to——to assist

小傑的一個良妻。她來這裏一定是什麼事也不能做。她也許會使我心碎，因為她一定設法離間小傑同我的感情。我最親愛的孩子，我不相信天下有一種減少了對於父母孺慕之情的結婚愛情。當你從前快出嫁時候，我嘗過多麼難受的苦痛呀！那是我萬分的不對，因為那是無端的妒忌。現在我謝謝上帝，你正像往常那麼愛我。我希望能夠再到荷馬敦看你們，但是前一次旅行使我去年冬天身體那麼不舒服，我此刻不敢再冒險了。——你親愛的母

with; to lend a hand to 幫助; 協理。

4. to believe in—to have faith in the existence or efficacy, advisability of 相信……的存在，有用，或者有益。

Your loving mother,

Rachel Sutton.

Homerton, 27 Nov. 1838.

My dearest Mother,—The cake was delicious: it tasted of Blackdeep, and the cross-over will be most useful. It will keep me warm on cold days, and the love that came with it will thicken the wool. But, mother, it is not a month ago since you sent me the stockings. You are always at work¹ for me. You are just like father. He gave us things not only on birthdays, but when we never looked out for them. Do you remember that week when wheat dropped three shillings a quarter? He had two hundred quarters which he might have sold ten days earlier. He was obliged to sell them at the next market and lost thirty pounds,

1. at work—working 工作。

親，

累折爾·薩吞。

荷馬墩，二十七日，十一月，一八三八年。

我最親愛的母親，——那塊餅很可口，吃起來有布拉克第普風味，那件背心將是極有用的。牠在冷天裏會使我感到溫暖，牠所帶來的愛情會加厚羊毛。但是，母親，那也是這一月內的事情，你送那些襪子給我。你總是爲我工作着。你正同父親一樣。他不單是在我們生日裏給我們東西，並且在我們絕沒有預料得到東西的時候。你記得那個星期嗎，當每一噸四分之一的麥落價三先令？他有五十噸麥，那可以在十天之前賣去。他只好在第二次

but he had seen at Ely that day a little desk, and he knew I wanted a desk, and he bought it for me with a fishing-rod and landing-net¹ for Jim.

My husband said he could not think of anything I needed and wrote me a cheque for two pounds.

O! that you could come here, and yet I am certain you must not. My heart aches to have you. In my daydreams I go over the long miles to Blackdeep, through Ware, through Royston, through Cambridge, through every village, and then I feel how far away you are. I turned out² of the room the other day³ the chair in which you always sat. I could not bear to see it empty. Charles notic-

1. landing-net——net for landing large fish when hooked 一種袋網用以取已經釣好的大魚上陸。

2. to turn out——to expel from place

市集時出售，因此失丟了三十鎊錢，但是那天他在伊里看見一張小書棹，他知道我要一張小書棹，他就買來給我，還帶一條釣魚竿同袋網給小傑。

我丈夫說他想不起我正需要什麼東西，寄一張兩鎊支票給我。

啊！我多麼希望你能夠來這裏，然而我十分知道你是不該來的。我的心疼痛，因為想同你在一塊兒。在我睜着眼睛做的夢裏，我默想從這裏到布拉克第普的長途，經過威耳，經過羅益斯頓，經過劍橋，經過個個鄉村，然後我覺得我是在多麼遠的地方呀。前幾天我將

趕出一個地方。

3. the other day—a few days ago 幾天前。

ed it had gone and ordered it to be brought back. He may have suspected the reason why I put it upstairs. My dearest, dearest mother, never fear that my affection for you can become less. Sometimes after marriage a woman loves her mother more than she ever loved her before.

It is a black fog here and not a breath of air is stirring. How different are our fogs at Blackdeep! They may be thick, but they are white and do not make us miserable. I never shall forget when I was last in Fortyacres and saw the mist lying near the river, and the church spire bright in the sunlight. The churchyard and the lower part of the church were quite hidden.

What a mercy¹ Jim was not

1. what a mercy——what a peice of good fortune attributable to a special

你常坐的那張椅子從房裏擡出。我不忍看牠空曠地站在那裏。查理斯發覺那張椅搬走了，叫人把牠搬回。他也許猜出我把牠弄到樓上去的理由。我最親愛的，最親愛的母親，絕用不着害怕我對於你的感情會減少。有時，出嫁後一個女人愛她的母親更甚於她一向的那樣愛她。

這裏是一片黑霧，一絲的空氣也不通。我們布拉克第普的霧是多麼不同呀！牠們也有濃密的時候，但是牠們是白色，不使我們愁悶。我絕不會忘記我前一次在福提亞克斯的情形，那時我看見霧低佈河旁，禮拜堂的尖塔却在陽光裏發亮。教堂墳地同教堂下部完全隱起來了。

多麼僥倖呀，小傑沒有上多羅

providence 多麼好的一場好運氣，那是特別蒙天之麻的。

trapped by Dolly, for I suppose it was she. Jim is not the first she has tried to get. You are quite right. She might have broken your heart, and I am sure she would have broken Jim's, for she is as hard as a millstone¹—Your loving child,

Esther.

Blackdeep Fen, 3 Dec. 1838.

Your letter made me feel unhappy. I am afraid something is on your mind. What is the matter? I was not well before I went to Homerton the last time, but maybe it was not London that upset me. If you cannot leave, I shall come. Let me hear by the next post.

Homerton, 5 Dec. 1838.

I told Charles I was expecting

1. millstone—either of two circular stones for grinding grain or other substance; also, the kind of stone of which they are

的圈套，我想你說的是她。小傑不是她所想抓到的第一個人。你是很對的。她也許會使你心碎，我敢說她會叫小傑心碎，因為她的心是同磨坊石頭一樣硬。你親愛的女兒，
厄斯忒。

布拉克第普 • 樊，三日，十二月，一八三八。

你的信使我感到不安。我怕你心裏有什麼事情攔住。什麼事呢？前次到荷馬墩之前，我已經是不舒服了，所以也許不是倫敦攪亂了我的健康。若使你不能離開，我就來到你那裏罷。下次郵車來的時候，請給我一封覆信。

荷馬墩，五日，十二月，一八三八。

我告訴查理斯我現在等着你。

composed 磨穀或其他東西用的那種圓石：或者可以做這種磨石的石頭。

you. He said that your sudden determination seemed odd. 'Your mother,' he added, 'is a woman who acts upon impulses.¹ She ought always to take time for consideration. This is hardly the proper season for travelling.' I asked him if he would let me go to Blackdeep. He replied that, unless there was some particular² reason for it, my proposal was as unwise as yours. What am I to do? A particular² reason! It is a particular reason that I pine for my mother. Can there be any reason more particular than a longing for the sight of a dear face, for kisses and embraces? You must counsel me.

Blackdeep, 15 Dec. 1838.

As Charles imagines I am carried

1. impulses——sudden tendency to act without reflection 不加思索的突然行動的趨

他說你這突然的決定好像有些奇怪。‘你的母親，’他還說，‘是一個憑着衝動行事的女人。她應當事事都慢慢考慮一下，這季是不大宜於旅行的。’我問他肯讓我到布拉克第普嗎。他答道，除非有什麼重要的理由，否則我的提議正像你的一樣不智。我要怎麼辦呢？一個重要的理由！我渴想一見我的母親，這豈不是一個重要的理由嗎！世界裏還有別的什麼理由更重要過渴望見到一個親愛的臉孔，渴望得到接吻同擁抱呢？你得告訴我應當怎麼辦。

布拉克第普，十五日，十二月，一八三八。

查理斯既然認為我是受他所說

向；衝動。

3. particular——special 特別的。

away¹ by what he calls impulses, I did not answer your letter at once. and I have been thinking as much as I can. I am not a good hand at it.² Your dear father had a joke against me. 'Rachel, you can't think; but never mind, you can do much better without thinking than other people can with it.' I wish I had gone straight to you at once, and yet it was better I did not. It would have put Charles out³ and this would not have been pleasant for either you or me. I would not have you at Blackdeep now for worlds.⁴ The low fever⁵ has broken

1. to be carried away—to be transported, or inspired 被……所感動。

2. a good hand at—skillful at 善於; 精於。

3. to put one out—to irritate on 激怒。

4. for worlds—on any account; even if you give me worlds 無論如何; 即使你拿大

的衝動所支配，所以我不立刻覆你的信，却儘我的能力去思索一番。我在這方面不是個好脚色。你親愛的父親對於我有一句笑話。‘累折爾，你不能思想；但是，不要緊，你不思想地行事比別人思想後行事還強得多。’我希望我立刻一直到了你那裏，然而我還是不去好些。那會使查理斯不高興，這是你我所不願意的。現在無論如何我絕不肯讓你來布拉克第普。微熱病現在又流行了，今天有兩家人安葬。牧師關

于世界來相酬。

5. low fever—a fever marked by a feeble pulse, clammy skin, and nervous depression 一種熱病，牠的徵候是脈搏低微，皮膚溼寒同精神鬱結。這裏譯做‘低熱病’是照字面譯，因為譯者沒有進解剖室操刀過，不知道中國通用的專門醫學名詞。

out, and to-day there were two funerals. Parson preached a sermon about it; it was a judgement from God. Perhaps it is, but why did it take your father three years ago? It is all a mystery, and it looks to me sometimes as if here on earth there were nothing but mystery. I have just heard that parson is down with the fever himself.

Do let me have a long letter at once.

Homerton, 20 Dec. 1838.

A Mrs. Perkins has been here. She sat with me for an hour. She spends her afternoons in going her rounds³ among her friends, as she calls them, but she does not care for them, nor do they care for her. She

1. to take——to remove from life 弄死。

2. down with fever——prostrate with

於這事有一篇誨言，說是上帝的責罰。也許是罷，但是爲什麼這個病三年前把你父親帶到墳墓裏？這完全是一個神祕，有時我覺得世上沒有別的東西，只是神祕。我剛纔聽說牧師自己也害了微熱病。你千萬得立刻寫一封長信給我。

荷馬墩，二十日，十二月，

一八三八。

一位拍琴茲太太剛纔在這裏。她和我坐談一個鐘頭。她把她的下午都用在循環地找她的朋友，她是這樣稱呼她們的，但是她對於她們並不關切，她們也不歡喜她。她的

fever 發熱躺下來了。

3. rounds——circuits 循環遊行。作此解時常居複數。

looks and speaks like a woman who could not care for anybody, and yet perhaps there may be somewhere a person who could move her.

I am so weary of the talk of my neighbours. It is so different from what we used to¹ have at Blackdeep. Oh me! those evenings when father came in at dark, and Mr. and Mrs. Thornley came afterwards and we had supper at eight, and father and Mr. Thornley smoked their pipes and drank our home-brewed ale and we had all the news—how much Mr. Thornley had got for his malt, how that pig-headed² old Stubbs wouldn't sell his corn, and how when he began to thresh it and the ferrets³ were brought, a hundred rats were killed and bushels of wheat had been eaten.

You ask me what is the matter.

1. used to——accustomed to 常常慣於。

2. pig-headed——obstinate 固執。

神氣同談話好像一個不會愛任何人的女人，然而也許世上某處有一個人能夠打動她的心。

我是這麼厭倦於我鄰居們的談話。那和我們在布拉克第普所常聽到的是如是不同。啊！那是多麼快樂的晚上！當父親夜裏回來，托尼先生同太太跟着也來，我們八點鐘用晚餐，父親同托尼先生抽他們底煙斗，喝我們家釀的麥酒，我們聽到一切新聞——托尼先生的麥芽賣了多少錢，固執得同豬一樣的老頭子士達布斯怎樣不肯賣他的穀，以及當他開始打穀，把捕鼠的貓帶來時候，殺死了一百個耗子，有不少的麥給牠們吃去了。

你問我什麼事使我不樂。我並

3. ferret——kind of pole-cat used in catching rats 捕鼠用的臭貓。

I do not deny I am not quite happy, but it would be worse than useless to dwell upon¹ my unhappiness and try to give you reasons for it. London, in the winter, most likely does not suit me. I shall certainly see you in the spring, and then I hope I shall be better.

Blackdeep Fen, Christmas Day, 1838.

As a rule it is right to hide our troubles, but it is not right that you should hide yours from me. You are my firstborn² child and my only daughter. There are girls who are very good, but between their mothers and them there is a wall. They do what they are bid; they are kind, but that is all. They live apart from those that bore them. I would not

1. to dwell upon——to write or speak at length 詳論。

不否認我是不十分高興，但是去細論我的憂鬱，想向你說出那理由，這不單是無補於事，而且還有別的壞影響。倫敦，冬天裏，大概和我不相宜罷。春天裏我一定會看見你，我希望那時我會好些。

布拉克第普·樊，聖誕日，
一八三八。

照例我們應當隱藏起我們的煩惱，但是你不該把你的向我隱藏。你是我頭胎生下的孩子，又是唯一的女兒。有些女兒性格很好，但是在她們母親同她們之間有一片牆。她們照她們母親所吩咐的話做去！她們也是溫厚殷勤，但是只是這麼

2. firstborn——eldest 頂大的女兒。

give a straw for such duty and love. I gathered one of our Christmas roses this morning. We have taken great care to keep them from being splashed and spoilt. There was not a speck on it. I put it in water and could not take my eyes off it. Its white flower lay spread open and I could look right down into it. I thought of you. When you were a little one—ay, and after you were out of short frocks¹—you never feared to show me every thought in your mind, you always declared that if you had wished to hide anything from me, it would have been of no use to try. What a blessing that was to me! How dreadful it would be if, now that you are married, you were to change! I am sure you will not and cannot.

1. short-frock——小孩穿的外衣，所以

多了。她們的生活和生她們的人們是隔膜的。這種的孝順同感情我看不值一根草。今天早上我摘了一朵我們的聖誕節玫瑰。我們一向很小心不讓牠們沾污了，弄壞了。牠上面一個污點也沒有。我將牠放在水裏，我的眼睛不能離開牠。牠的白花展開着，我能夠一直看下去。我想起你了。當你是個小姑娘——不，甚至於當你已經不穿短袍子的時候——你絕沒有怕將你心裏個個的想頭拿給我看，你常常說若使你想把什麼想頭藏起不讓我看，那是白費了工夫。這對於我是多麼大的幸福呀！那是多麼可怕；若使現在嫁人後，你却變了！我相信你不會變，而且不能夠變。

out of short-frocks 是指已經成年了。

Homerton, 1 Jan. 1839.

The New Year! What will happen before the end of it? I feel as if it must be something strange. I have just read your last letter again, and I cannot hold my-self in¹ My dearest mother, I confess I am wretched. It might be supposed that misery like mine would express itself with no effort,² but it is not so: it would be far easier to describe ordinary things. I am afraid also to talk about it, lest that which is dim and shapeless should become more real.

Since the day we were married Charles and I have never openly quarrelled. He is really good: he spends his evenings at home and does not seem to desire entertainment elsewhere, He likes to see me well

1. to hold in——to keep in check 制止住。

荷馬墩，一日，一月，一八

三九。

新年！在這年底之前會有什麼事發生呢？我覺得好像一定有些奇事。我剛纔又念一遍你最近這封信，我不能自制了。我最親愛的母親，我承認我是愁悶得很。也許人們以為像我這樣的悲哀不會有力地說出，其實不然，因為描狀通常的事情是很容易的。我又不敢談這件事，怕的是本來是模糊未成形的惆悵會變為更真實的。

自從我們結婚那天起，查理斯同我素來沒有公然吵架過。他的確是好丈夫；他晚上都花在家裏，不像想到別地方去尋樂。他喜歡看我穿

2. with no efforts——not forcibly 不是有力地。

dressed and does not stint in house expenditure, although he examines it carefully and pays a good many of the bills himself by cheque. He has been promoted to be manager of the bank, and takes up¹ his new duties to-day. Mrs. Perkins, whose husband is one of the partners, told me that he had said that there is nobody in the bank equal to Charles for sound sense and business ability; that everything with which he has to do goes right;² he is always calm, never in a hurry,³ and never betrayed into imprudence. This I can well believe. As you know, Jim asked him a month ago in much excitement for advice about Fordham, who owed him £200. Jim had heard there was something wrong. Charles put the

1. to take up——to enter upon 開始執行。

2. to go right——to take a good course

着好衣服，家中用費並不吝惜，雖然他仔細考察一切款項的用途，許多賬都是他自己用支票付的。他升到做銀行的總經理，今天開始執行他的新職務。柏琴茲太太，她的丈夫是一個股東，告訴我他丈夫說銀行裏沒有一個人有正確的眼光同辦事的能力這兩方面趕得上查理斯；凡是他經手過的事情都是成功的；他永遠是冷靜，絕沒有感到匆忙，絕不會弄糊塗了。這是很能相信的。你也知道，小傑前月很張皇地問他福特漢姆的情形，這個人欠他二百金鎊。小傑聽說這個人的情形不妙。查理斯把信放到書棹裏，不向我再提起這件事了，等到過了一

走一條順利的道；成功。

3. in a hurry——in undue haste 在無謂的匆忙裏。

letter in the desk and did not mention it to me again till a week afterwards, when he asked me to tell Jim the next time I wrote to Blackdeep that he need not worry himself, as Fordham was quite safe. It is certainly a comfort to a woman that her husband is a strong¹ man and that he is much respected by his employers. Of what have I to complain? O mother, life here is so dull! This is not the right word; it is common, but if you can fill it up with my meaning, there is no better. It will then be terrible. There is hardly a flower in the garden, although not a weed is permitted. The sooty laurels unchanging through winter and summer I hate. Some flowers I am sure would grow, but Charles does not care for them. Neatness is what he likes, and if the

1. strong——having intellectual power.

個星期，他吩咐我下次寫信到布拉克第普時候告訴小傑，他用不着白擔心，因為福特漢姆的經濟情形是十分安全的。這對於女人的確是個安慰，她的丈夫是一位精明強幹的人，很受他的東家們的尊敬。我所要埋怨的是什麼呢？啊，母親，這裏的生活是這麼無聊！‘無聊’不是合式的字；這字太普通了，但是你若使能夠填進我的意思，那麼這是個再湊巧不過的字了。那麼，這將成爲一個可怕的字了。這裏花園幾乎沒有一朵花，雖然一根野草也不許長在裏面。我厭惡那歷冬夏而不變的，煤黑色的桂樹。我相信有些花在這個園裏可以生長，但是查理斯不喜歡牠們。他所高興的是潔淨；

endurance, etc 有識見，毅力等等。

beds are raked quite smooth, if the grass is closely shaven and trimmed and not a grain of gravel in the path is loose, he is content. He cannot endure the least untidiness in the house. If papers are left lying loosely about, he silently puts them evenly together. He brings all his office ways into the diningroom; the pens must never be put aside unwiped and the ink-bottles must be kept filled to a certain height. We do not get much sun at any time of day in Homerton, and we face the west. Charles wishes the blinds to be drawn when it shines, so that it may not fade the curtains. We have few books excepting Rees's cyclopaedia, and they are kept in a glazed case. If I look at one I have to¹ put it back directly I have done with it. I saw this place before I was

1. to have to---to be obliged to 不得

若使花壇是耙得很平的，若使草地是修剪得整整齊齊，園裏馬路上沒有一粒小石子鬆了，那麼他就滿意了。他不能忍受屋裏有一絲絲的不潔。若使紙張隨便散在棹上，他一聲不則地把牠們整齊地歸在一處。他將他辦公室的一切習慣帶進食堂；筆絕不應當沒有揩乾放在棹上，墨水瓶一定要盛有相當分量的墨水。在荷馬墩，一天裏任何時候，我們都見不到許多的太陽光；然而，我們却是朝西的。查理斯要把遮陽簾放下，當陽光照耀時候，爲的是要保着掛幕不落色。我們沒有什麼書，除開了一部李氏百科全書，那又是放在玻璃櫃子裏面。若使我拿出一本，看完就得立刻歸還

不。

married, but it did not look then as it looks now, and I did not comprehend how much Blackdeep was a part of¹ me. The front door always open in daytime, the hollyhocks down to the gate, the strawberry beds, the currant and gooseberry bushes, the lilacs, roses, the ragged orchard at the back, the going in and out without 'getting ready', our living-room² with Jim's pipes and tobacco on the mantel-shelf, his gun over it, his fishing-tackle in the corner—I little understood that such things and the ease which is felt when our surroundings grow to³ us make a good part of⁴ the joy of life. When I came to Blackdeep for my holiday and lifted the latch, it

1. a part of me——同她個人的精神有密切的關係，幾乎是分不開的，所以說變成她的一部分了。

2. living-room——sitting-room 閒坐的

原處。在他結婚之前，我看見這個地方，但是那時的印象和現在的印象不同，那時我也不曉得布拉克第普在我心裏佔多麼重要的部分。白天裏總是開着的大門，一直到大門口的蜀葵，草莓的花壇，覆盆子同醋栗的小樹林，紫丁香花，玫瑰花，後面那片雜亂的花園，‘沒有預備’的隨意出入，我們閒坐的房子，火爐架上有小傑的煙斗同煙，上面掛着他的鎗，角落上放有他的釣魚具——我那時不大知道這些東西當我們的環境跟我們溶在一起時所感到的快感是構成了人生快樂的大部分。當我來到布拉克第普過放假的

房子，和臥室相反。

3. to grow to——to coalesce 合成一體。

4. a good part——a great part 一大部分。

was just as if a stiff, tight band round my chest dropped from me. I have nothing to do here. We keep three servants indoors. I would much rather have but two and help a little myself. They are good servants, and the work seems to go by mechanism without my interference. I suggested to Charles that, as they were not fully employed, we should get rid of one, but he would not consent. He preferred, he said, paid service. To me the dusting of my room, paring apples, or the cooking of any little delicacy, is not service. The cook asks for orders in the morning; the various dishes are properly prepared; but if I were Charles, and my wife understood her business, I should like to taste her hand¹ in them. I never venture into the kitchen.

1. hand——skill 技能。

日子，拿起門門時候，真好像一條緊束着我胸口的硬帶離我而去。在這裏我無事可幹。我們家裏用三個僕人。我倒很願意只用兩個，我自己從旁幫助一點兒。她們是好僕人，家裏事情同機械一般地天天幹下去，用不着我的干涉。我向查理斯提議，她們既然不很忙，我們還是減少一個罷，但是他不答應。他高興，他說，用錢買來的服役。由我看起來，拂拭我自己的房子，削蘋果，或者煮些好吃的小東西，並不算服役。早上廚子問我吃什麼菜；種種各盤的菜好好地預備了；但是假設我是查理斯，我妻子懂得她做的事情，我倒喜歡有時嘗一嘗她親手烹飪的菜。我現在絕沒有冒

'The advantage of paid service', added Charles, 'is that if it is inefficient you can reprimand or dismiss.' Nothing in me finds exercise. I want to work, to laugh, to expect. There was always something going on¹ at Blackdeep, no two days alike. I never got up in the morning knowing what was before me till bedtime. That outlook too from my window, how I miss it!—the miles and miles of distance, the rainbow arch in summer complete to the ground, the sunlight, the stormy wind, the stars from the point overhead to the horizon far away—I hardly ever see them here.

You will exclaim 'Is this all?' If you were here you would think it enough, but it—. The clock is striking one. Charles is to be at home to lunch. He is going to buy

1. going on—getting on 進行着。

險到廚房去過。‘用錢買來的服役的好處’，查理斯還說，‘是在乎若使不行，你能夠責備或者開除’。我身裏沒有一種力氣有使用的機會。我要工作，大笑，期望。在布拉克第普時總是有些事情，沒有兩天是同樣的。每天從起身一直到就寢我不知道這天裏會有什麼事發生。從我房裏窗子望見的光景，我多麼思念呀！——幾十哩遼遠的平原，夏天兩頭連到地的虹弧，陽光，暴風，從頭頂一直到遠處水平線的星羣——我在這兒幾乎沒有看到牠們。

你會驚奇地喊道‘就是這些理由嗎？’假使你自己在這裏，你會以為很夠了，但是那——。鐘打一點了。查理斯快回來用午餐了。他將

the house and is to meet the owner this afternoon, an old man who lives about ten minutes' walk¹ from us. Charles thinks the purchase will be a good investment and that another house might be built on part of the garden.

Blackdeep, 15 Jan. 1839.

I am not surprised you find London dull, but I grieve that it has taken such an effect on you. I hoped that, as you are young, you would get used² to the bricks and mortar and the smoke.

Jim came in and I had to stop. The Lynn coach is set fast in the snow near the turnpike at the top of our lane, and he is going to help dig it out. I will take up my pen again. You are no worse off than thousands

1. ten minutes walk——走路要花十分鐘時間的距離。

去買那座屋子，今天下午去會那賣主，一個老頭子，他的家和我們這裏相隔一段，走十分鐘的路。查理斯以爲這下購置將成很好的投資，在那花園上可以另蓋一座屋子。

布拉克第普，十五日，一月，一八三九。

我並不驚奇你覺得倫敦無聊，但是我很傷心牠於你有這麼大的影響。我希望，你既是還年青，你將慣於磚頭灰泥和煙霧的環境。

小傑進來了，我得停筆。林赤公共馬車陷在我們巷口柵欄旁邊的雪裏，他現在去幫人家把牠掘出。我要再拿起筆來。你的情形並不比成千成萬的鄉下姑娘更壞，她們也

2. to get used——to become accustomed
慣子。

of country girls who are obliged to live in streets narrower than those in Homerton. I cannot help boding you are not quite free¹ with me. I do beseech you to hide nothing. There must even now be something the matter² beyond what I have heard. I cannot say any more at present. My head is in a whirl. May be you will have a child. That will make all the difference to you.

Homerton, 20 Jan. 1839.

How shall I begin? I must tell the whole truth. Mother, mother, I have made a great mistake, the one great mistake of life. I have mistaken the man with whom I am to live. Charles and I were engaged for two years. I have discovered nothing new in him. I was familiar

1. free——frank ; unreserved 坦白。

2. something the matter——something

是迫得住在比荷馬墩區裏街道更窄的小街上。我免不了覺得你對於我不十分坦白。我求你什麼也不要遮瞞。必定還有些我所未聽到的重要事情。此刻我不能再說什麼。我的思想是紛至沓來。也許你將有一個小孩。那會把你的環境完全變更了。

荷馬墩，二十日，一月，一
八三九。

我怎麼開頭呢？我得說出全部的真情。母親，母親，我鑄成了一個大錯，一生裏惟一的大錯。我看錯做我終身伴侶的男人。查理斯同我結婚兩年了。我沒有發現出他的什麼新的性質。我早已熟悉他的一切

wrong 有些意外的事故。

with all his ways and thought them all good. I compared him with other men who were extravagant and who had vices, and I considered myself fortunate. He was cool, but how much better it was to be so than to have a temper, for I should never hear angry words from him which cannot be forgotten? I remembered how measured my uncle Robert's speech was, how quiet he was, and yet no two human beings could have been more devoted to one another than uncle and aunt. Charles's quietude seemed so like uncle's. Charles was very methodical. He always came to see me on the same days, at the same hours, and stayed the same time. It provoked me at first, but I said to myself that he was not a creature of fits and starts¹ and that I could always depend on him.

1. fits and starts — capricious im.

習慣，認爲都是好的。我把他拿來同其他胡鬧的和有嗜好的人們相比，我覺得自己有幸。他是冷淡的，但是這比起壞癖氣好了許多了，因爲我絕不會從他聽到永不能忘記的怒話？我記起我的叔叔羅伯的說話是多麼有分寸，他是多麼安祥，然而天下人不能夠比叔叔嬾嬾更彼此相親愛了！查理斯的安祥看起來這麼像我叔叔的。查理斯是很嚴正的。他總是在一定的日子，一定的時候來望我，他滯留的時間也是一定的。這起先使我生氣，但是我對自己說他不是個任性的人，我可以永遠知道他是靠得住的。他總是在我們相會同分手時候和我接吻。我記不起來他曾擁抱我過，我絕沒有感

pulses and movements 作輟無常。

He always kissed me when we met and when we parted. I do not remember that he ever had me in his arms, and I never felt he was warm and eager when we were alone together ; but I had heard of men and women who married for what they called love, and in a twelvemonth it had vanished and there was nothing left. Of many small particulars I took but¹ little notice. When we chose the furniture I wanted bright-coloured curtains, but he did not like them and bought dark red, gloomy stuff. I tried to think they were the best because they would not show the London dirt. I had a bonnet with scarlet trimmings which suited my black hair, but he asked me to change them for something more sober, because they made me conspicuous. Again I thought he was

1. but——only 只是。

到他是熱烈的，興奮的，當我倆獨自一起時候；但是我曾聽到男人同女人爲着他們所謂愛情而結婚，一年內愛情消滅了，沒有別的任何東西剩下。還有許多零星細節，我都不大去注意。當我揀選傢俱時候，我要顏色鮮明的掛幕，但是他不喜歡牠們，購買深紅色，陰森森的料子。我特意去想這些是最相宜的，因爲不會現出倫敦塵土的痕迹。我有一頂鑲紅花邊的帽子，那和我的黑髮很相稱，但是他叫我換上一些顏色暗淡的花邊，因爲那使我太惹人注目了。我又想他是對的，在鄉下可以的，在城裏也許不行。零星小事！然而對於我牠們現在含有多麼大的意義呀！兩年——什麼都變

right, and that what might do¹ for the country might not be proper in town. Trifles! and yet to me now what a meaning they have! Two years—and everything is changed, although, as I have just said, I have found nothing new! The quietude is absence of emotion, different in its root from uncle Robert's serenity. It is the deadly sameness² of a soul to which nothing is strange and wonderful and a woman's heart is not so interesting as an advertisement column in the newspaper. He never cares to look into mine. I do not pretend that there is anything remarkable in it, but if he were to open it he would find something worth having. This absence of curiosity to explore what is in me kills me. What must the bliss of

1. to do—to serve 適用。

2. the deadly sameness of a soul……震

了，雖然，像我剛纔所說的，我並沒有發現什麼新性質！他的安祥是感情的缺乏，基本上同我們叔叔羅伯的恬靜不同。那是一個靈魂的死一般的單調，由牠看起來，世上沒有一件東西是奇怪的，一個女人的心還不如報紙裏的廣告欄那麼有趣。他絕不去觀察我的心。我並不是說我的心裏有什麼奇特的東西，但是若使他來打開牠，他會發現值得佔有的東西。這種好奇心的缺乏，不想去探討我心裏的情調，真是致我的死命。那必定是一個妻子多麼大的幸福呀，當她的丈夫搜尋到她心裏的最深一層，當她在他眼睛裏看到慫慂的疑問，當他問她，‘你真覺得這樣嗎？’她也望着他，答

魂可怕的單調。

a wife be when her husband searches her to her inmost depths, when she sees tender questions in his eyes, when he asks her *do you really feel so?* and she looks at him and replies *and you?* I could endure the uneventfulness of outward life if anything not unpleasant *happened* between me and Charles. Nothing happens. Something happens in my relationship to my dog. I pat him and he is pleased; he barks for joy when I go out. I cannot live with anybody with whom I am always on exactly the same even terms—no rising, no falling, mere stagnation. I am dead, but it is death without its sleep and peace. Fool, fool that I was! I cannot go on.¹ What shall I do? If Charles drank I might cure or tolerate him; if he went

1. to go on—to continue, to persevere

道‘你呢？’。我能够忍受外生活的平淡，若使我同查理斯之間常有什麼不是不快意的事情發生。然而，我們之間是什麼事情也不發生的。我跟狗的關係裏有些事情發生。我撫着牠，牠高興了，當我出去時候，牠喜歡得狂吠。我不能同任何人同居，當我跟他始終居于那個平淡無謂的情形裏——既不昇高，也不降落，單單是呆滯着。我算是死了，但是這是一種沒有得到長眠同安甯的死。傻子，我從前真是一個傻子！我不能再往下寫了。我有什麼可幹呢？若使查理斯貪酒，我可以醫好他，或者容忍他；若使他去追求另一個女人，我也許可以把他弄

繼續；支持下去。

after¹ another woman I might win him back. I can lay hold of nothing.

A child? Ah no! I have longed unspeakably for a child sometimes, but not for one fathered² by him.

Blackdeep, 24 Jan. 1839.

I knew it all, but I dared not speak till you had spoken. Your letter came when we were at breakfast. I could not open it, for my heart told me what was in it. Jim wondered why I let it lie on the table, and I made some excuse. After breakfast I took it upstairs into my own room and sat down by the bed, your father's bed, and cried and prayed. If he were alive he would have helped me, or if no help could have been found he would have

1. to go after——to visit as a wooer
當個情人去追求。

得回心轉意。現在我却不能抓到任何東西。

生一個小孩？啊，不！有時我說不出地渴望得到一個小孩，但是叫他做父親的小孩我却不要。

布拉克第普，二十四日，一月，一八三九。

我早已明白一切了，但是在你說出之前，我不敢道破。你的信來時，我們正用早餐。我不能打開牠，因為我的心已預料到裏面說的是什麼話。小傑納罕爲什麼我讓牠躺在棹上，我就隨便託辭一下。早餐後，我帶牠到樓上，我自己房裏，坐在床旁，你父親的床，我哭泣祈禱着。若使他還活着，他會幫助

1. to be fathered——to be begotten 生下的。

shared my sorrow. It is dreadful that, no matter¹ what my distress may be, he cannot speak. What counsel can I send you? I have had much to do with² affliction, but not such as yours. My love for you is of no use. I will be still. I have always found, when I am in great straits and my head is confused, I must hold my tongue³ and do nothing. If I do not move, a way may open out to me. Meantime, live in the thought of Blackdeep and of me. It will do you no harm and may keep you from sinking.

Homerton, 30 Jan. 1839.

No complaint, no reproof. You might have told me it was perhaps my fault.

1. no matter——it makes no difference
不管；無論。

2. to do with——to get on with 對付。

我；假使是無能爲力的，他也會分了我的憂愁。這真是可怕，無論我的苦痛是怎麼樣子，他總不能說話。我能給你什麼勸告呢？我對付過許多煩惱，但是未曾碰到像你這樣的。我對於你的愛情是無用的。我決定現在不則一聲。我一向老覺得，當我在很大困難裏，我的頭是胡塗了的時侯，我必得噤口，什麼舉動都沒有。若使我毫無活動，也許會有一條路子呈現我的面前。現在，你就在懷念着布拉克第普同我裏面過日子罷。這於你不會是有害的，也許還使你免得意志完全沉沒了。

荷馬墩，三十日，一月，一
八三九。

來信沒有埋怨的話，沒有責備的話。你很可以對我說也許那都是我的錯。

3. to hold one's tongue—to keep silent 靜默，緘口不言。

I always have to reflect on what I am about to say to him. I go through my sentences to the end before I open my lips. He dislikes exaggeration, and checks me if I use a strong word ; but surely life sometimes needs strong words, and those which are tame may be further from the truth than those which burn. When he first began to think about buying the house, I was surprised and talked with less restraint than is usual with me. After a little while he said that I had not contributed anything definite to a settlement of the question. I dare say I had not, but it is natural to me to speak even when I do not pretend to settle questions. He seems to think that speech is useless for a distinct, practical purpose. At Blackdeep almost everything that comes into my head finds

我總得把我要對他說的話先思量一下。我將我說的整句話在心想好，然後再開口。他不喜歡過實失真的話，總是止着我，當我用一個強烈的字眼：但是人生的確有時需要強烈的字眼，雅馴的辭句也許會比烈火般的言語跟真相離得更遠。當他第一次談到購買那座屋子，我很驚奇，說話時不像通常那麼有節制。過了一會兒，他說我並沒有貢獻什麼意見，關於解決這個問題。我敢說我沒有，但是我自然會說許多話，甚至于當我並不企圖解決什麼問題時候。他好像以為說話是無謂的，除非有一定實用的目的。在布拉克第普，幾乎凡是我想起來的都到我舌頭上。在這裏，那抑制是

its way to my tongue.¹ The repression here is unbearable.

Last night it rained, and Charles's overcoat was a little wet at the bottom. He asked that it might be put to the fire. Directly he came down in the morning he felt this coat and at breakfast said in his slow way, 'My coat has not been dried.' I replied that I was very sorry, that I had quite forgotten it, and that it should be dried before he was ready to start. I jumped up, brought it into the room and hung it on a chair on the hearth-rug. He did not thank me and appeared to take no notice. 'I am indeed very sorry,' I repeated. He then spoke. 'I do not care about the damp: it is the principle involved. I have observed that you do not endeavour systematically to impress my requests

1. . . 就是想到那裏，說到那裏，毫無顧忌

不可忍的。

昨晚下雨，查理斯的外套下緣有些潮溼。他說可以拿去烘一下。今早他一下來，就摸一摸他的外套，早餐的時候用他那從容不迫的態度說道，‘我的外套沒有烘過。’我答道我很覺得難過，我完全忘却了；我現在要把牠烘乾，在他預備出去之前。我跳起來，拿牠到房裏，掛在爐邊地毯上的椅子上面。他也不謝我，好像不去理會。‘我的確很覺得難過，’我又說。他於是說話了。‘我并不在乎那潮溼；我所不滿意的是這裏面所含的意義。我看出你不努力去有系統地把我的請求設法記在心裏。若使當我說出時候，你就注意着，大聲地對自己重

同遲疑的意思。

on your mind. If you were to take due note of them at the time they are made, and say them aloud two or three times to yourself, they would not escape your memory. Forgetfulness is never an excuse in business, and I do not see why it should be at home.' 'O Charles!' I cried, 'do not talk about principles in such a trifle; I simply forgot. I should be more likely to forget my cloak than your coat.' He did not answer me, but opened a couple of letters, finished his breakfast, and then began to write at the desk. I went upstairs, and when I returned to the breakfast room he had gone. In the evening he behaved as if nothing had passed between us. He would have thought it ridiculous if such a reproof had unsettled a clerk at the bank, and why should

1. unsettled—unfixed; disordered

覆說兩三遍，這些話絕不能逃出你的記憶。在公務方面，忘却絕不能成爲一個藉口，我看不出爲什麼在家裏這可以。’‘啊，查理斯！’我喊道，‘這些小事裏你不要談什麼意義；我只是忘却了。比起你的外套，我更容易忘了我自己的大衣。’他沒有答我，却扯開兩封信，吃完他的早餐，然後開始在他棹上寫字。我上樓去，當我回到用早餐的房子，他已出門了。晚間他照常行事，好像我們裏面並沒有發生什麼事情。他會以爲那是很滑稽的，若使這麼一個責備會使銀行裏一個書記精神不安，那麼爲什麼會使我不安呢？書記預料出天天會得到教訓。

亂。

it unsettle me? The clerk expects to be taught his lesson daily. So does every rational being.

Nothing! nothing! I can imagine Mrs. Perkins' contempt if I were to confide in her. 'As good a husband as ever lived. What do you want, you silly creature? I suppose it's what they call passion. You should have married a poet. You have made an uncommonly good match and ought to be thankful.' A poet! I know nothing of poets, but I do know that if marriage for passion be folly, there is no true marriage without it.

Blackdeep, 7 Feb. 1839.

I am no clearer now than I was a fortnight ago. I wish I could talk to somebody, and then perhaps my thoughts would settle themselves. Last Sunday I made up my mind¹ I

1. to make up one's mind — to

每個有理性的人也都該這樣了。

算不得什麼！算不得什麼！我可以想像出柏金茲太太的輕蔑，若使我把心裏話對她說出。‘世上找不出再好的丈夫。你所要的是什麼，你這傻傢伙？我想是人們所謂的熱情罷。那麼你應當嫁給一個詩人。你結了一個非常好的婚姻，該感謝上帝！’一個詩人！我並不曉得詩人是什麼樣子，但是我知道若使爲熱情而結婚是件愚蠢的事，恐怕天下一切真正的婚姻都帶有愚蠢的意味罷。

布拉克第普，七日，二月，

一八三九。

我現在正同兩星期前那麼胡塗。我希望我能對誰說出這事，那時也許我的思想會變有頭緒些。前

d. termino 決定。

would come to you at all costs ; then I doubted, and this morning again I was going to start at once. Now my doubts have returned. Jim notices how worried I am, and I make excuses.

I cannot rest while I am not able to do more than put you off¹ by praying you to bear your lot patiently. It is so hard to stand helpless and counsel patience. Could you give him up² and live here? I am held back, though, from this at present. I am not sure what might happen if you were to leave him. Perhaps he would be able to force you to return. You have no charge to make against him which anybody but myself would understand.

I must still wait for the light

1. to put off——to turn aside from a purpose 敷衍。

2. to give up——to abandon; to cease

星期日我下個決心不顧一切到你那裏去；然後我又躊躇，今早我又快立刻出發。現在我的躊躇又回來了。小傑看出我是多麼煩惱，我對他說出其他的託辭。

我總覺得不安，當我只能夠拿請你耐心地忍受你的運命這類話來敷衍你。這是很苦痛的事情，無能爲力地站住，勸人忍耐。你能够丟開他，來這裏住嗎？然而我現在又不敢講這話。也許他能夠強迫你回去。除開我以外，沒有別人能够了解你所能舉出的他的錯處。

我只得仍然等候那忽然來的灼

to have to do with (a person) 離開；同某人脫離關係。

which I trust will be given me. It is wonderful how sometimes it strikes down on me suddenly and sometimes grows by degrees like the day over Ingleby Fen. I lay in bed late this morning, for I hadn't slept much, and watched it as it spread, and I thought of my Esther in London who never sees the sunrise.

Homerton, 14 Feb. 1839.

There is hardly anything to record—no event, that is to say—and yet I have been swept on at a pace which frightens me. The least word or act urges me more than a blow. Yesterday I made up my accounts and was ten shillings short.¹ I went over² them again and again and could not get them right. I was going to put into the cash box ten

1. ten shilling short——短了十先令;差了十先令。

見，我相信我可以得到。那是奇怪的，有時牠忽然降臨到我頭上，有時漸漸地顯明像伊格涅背·樊的曙光。今早我在床上躺到很遲，因為我晚上沒有睡多少，我看見曙光的慢慢開展，我就想起在倫敦永遠不能看見日出的我的厄斯忒。

荷馬墩，十四日，二月，上

八三九。

幾乎沒有什麼值得記載的——就是說，沒有事情發生——然而我是這麼迅速地被衝去，真叫我害怕。僅僅一句話或者一些舉動感動着我比一拳還厲害。昨天我結賬，短了十個先令。我算了又重算幾遍，無法糾正好。我打算把我自己的錢

2. to go over — to examine 研究。

shillings of my own money, but I thought there might be some mistake and that Charles, who always examines my books, would find it out, and that it would be worse for me if he had discovered what I had done than if I had let them tell their own tale.¹ After dinner he asked for them, counted my balance, and at once found out there was ten shillings too little. I said I knew it and supposed I had forgotten to put down² something I had spent. 'Forgotten again?' he replied; 'it is unsatisfactory. there is evident want of method.' He locked the box and book in the desk and read the newspaper while I sat and worked. Next day I remembered the servant had half-a-sovereign to pay the greengrocer, and I had not seen

1. to tell their own tale—to reveal themselves 自己漏洩出裏面的毛病。

十先令放進現銀匣子裏，但是我想也許裏面有些錯誤，查理斯總是細查我的賬簿的，或者會看出；那是于我更不利的，若使他發現我私自放進十先令，比起我讓賬簿自己說出裏面的錯誤。用餐後，我叫拿賬簿來，把出入算一下，立刻發現少了十先令。我說我知道，我想大概我忘記將我用了的一筆款記下。‘又是忘却？’他答道，‘這叫人不滿意：分明缺乏方法。’他將匣子同賬簿鎖在書棹裏，讀報紙，我坐在一旁工作。第二天我記起來女僕拿了十先令給鮮菓商，我後來沒有見到她，因此忘却了。當查理斯從銀行回來，我第一句話是，‘查理斯，我知

2. to put down—to set down 記錄下來。

her since I gave it to her. When Charles returned from the bank my first words were, 'O Charles, I know all about the halfsovereign: I am so glad. Would not you have acknowledged you were glad too?' He looked at me just as he did the night before. I believe he would rather I had lost the money. 'Your explanation,' was his response, 'makes no difference: in fact¹ it confirms my charge of lack of system. I have brought you some tablets which I wish you to keep in your pocket, and you must note in them every outgoing at the time it is made. These items are then to be regularly adjusted, and transferred afterwards.' I could not restrain myself.

'Charles, Charles,' I cried, 'do not *charge* me, as if I had committed

1 in fact——really 其實。

道那十先令的下落了：我多麼歡喜。你也承認你也高興嗎？’他看着我正像前晚一樣。我相信他到願意我完全失掉那錢了。‘你的解釋’，這是他的答話，‘是無關緊要的：那實在更證明了我所說的缺乏方法。我帶幾張小表給你，我希望你把牠們放在你衣袋裏，每次付錢時候你得立即記在上面。這些小賬後來再好好地算一下，轉記到大簿子上面。’我不能自制了。

‘查理斯，查理斯，’我喊，‘不要定我的罪狀，好像我犯了一種罪了。爲着慈悲的緣故，溫和些罷！’

a crime. For mercy's sake,¹ soften! I have confessed I was careless; can you not forgive?' 'It is much easier,' was the answer, 'to confess and regret than to amend. I am not offended, and as to forgiveness I do not quite comprehend the term. It is one I do not often use. What is done cannot be undone. If you will alter your present habit, forgiveness, whatever you may mean by it, becomes superfluous.' His lips shut into their usual rigidity. Not a muscle in them would have stirred if I had kissed them with tears. No tears rose; I was struck into hardness equal to his own, and with something added. I *hated* him. 'Henceforward,' I said to myself, 'I will not submit or apologise; there shall be war.'

16 Feb. 1839.

I left my letter unfinished.

1. for mercy's sake —— 乞憐的驚嘆詞，

我自認我是不小心；你不能原諒嗎？’‘自認同追悔’他的答語是，‘比起改過是容易得多了。我並沒有生氣，至于原諒我不大了解那個字的意義。那是一個我不常用的字。已經做過的事情是無法更改了。若使你能夠革去你現在的習慣，原諒，不管你認爲這字含有什麼意思，變成無用了。’他的嘴唇閉成牠們常具的嚴厲神氣。牠們上面的筋一條也不會動，假使我和淚吻牠們。我也沒有眼淚起來；我弄得同他一樣的冷心，還加上別的分心。我‘恨’他。‘從此後，’我對自己說，‘我既不屈服，也不道歉；我們開戰罷。’

十六日，二月，一八三九。

我的信沒有寫完就擱下。戰

可以譯做‘體上天慈悲之意’。

War? ... How can I make war or continue at war? I could not keep up¹ the struggle for a week. I am so framed that I must make peace with those with whom I have disagreed or I must fly. I would take nine steps out of the ten—nay, the whole ten which divide me from dear friends; I would say that this or that was not my meaning. I would abandon all arguing and wash away differences² with sheer affection. Toward Charles I cannot stir. Sometimes, although but seldom, my brother Jim and I have quarrelled. Five minutes afterwards we have been in one another's arms and the angry words were as though they had never been spoken. Forgiveness is not a remission of consequences on repentance. It is

1. to keep up——to continue 維持下去。

爭？我怎麼能夠同人開戰或繼續在戰爭狀態裏呢？我不能支持那種奮鬥到一星期。我的性格是這樣，我必定跟同我吵架的人們講和，否則我必定逃走。我走開十步後會退回九步——不，我會退回我同我親愛朋友相隔的十步；我會解釋道這句話或者那句話他誤解了。我一定會拋棄一切的辯論，用純淨的感情來洗掉一切不和。但是對於查理斯，我不能讓步。有時，雖然很稀少，我的兄弟小傑同我吵架。五分鐘後我們兩人彼此擁抱着，憤怒的話好像根本沒有說過一樣的。原諒並不是懺悔後責任的豁免。那完全是愛，一種這麼強烈的愛，在牠的熱

2. differences — disagreement in opinion 爭執；意見的不同。

simply love, a love so strong that in its heat the offence vanishes. Without love—and so far Charles is right—forgiveness even of the smallest mistake is impossible.

It is a thick, dark fog again this morning. At Blackdeep most likely it is bright sunlight.

Charles does not seem to suspect that his indifference has any effect on me. I suppose he is unable to conceive my world or any world but his own. If he were at Blackdeep now, and the sun were shining, would it be to him a glowing, blessed ball of fire?

He may have just as much right to complain of me as I have to complain of him. He sets store on¹ the qualities necessary for his business and he knows what store the partners set on those qualities in him. No

1. to set store on—to value highly

度裏那些過失烟消雲散了。沒有愛——在這方面查理斯是對的——就是對於最微末過失的原諒也是辦不到的。

今早又是一片濃密的黑霧。在布拉克第普大概全是明亮的陽光罷。

查理斯好像沒有猜出他的冷淡于我有什麼影響。我想他在他自己的世界外不能了解尚有我的世界或者其他的世界。若使他此刻在布拉克第普，太陽正照耀着，他會覺得那是一個光亮的，可感謝的火球嗎？

他可以有同樣多的權利來埋怨我，正如我有權利埋怨他。他很看重他職務所必須的那副本領，他也

看重；重視。

doubt they are of great importance to everybody. It must be hard¹ for him to live with a woman who takes so little interest in city affairs and makes so much of² what to him is of no importance. He looks down³ upon me as though I were not able to talk on any subject which, for its comprehension, requires intelligence. If he had married Miss Stagg, who has doubled the drapery business at Ely, they might have agreed together very well.

This is true, but I come back to myself. The virtues are not enough for me. Life with them alone is not worth the trouble of getting up in the morning. I thirst for you: I shall come, whatever may happen.

1. hard——unpleasant 苦痛;不悅。

2. to make much of——to pet; to treat as weighty 喜歡;認為重要。

知道東家們對於他這副本領是多麼重視。無疑地那些本領對於個個人都是很重要的。這於他一定是很苦痛的，和一個女人同居，她這麼不關心城裏的事情，却非常留神他所認為不重要的事情。他瞧不起我，好像我不能談到需要理智去了解的題目。若使他娶了在伊里把成衣舖擴張成一倍大的斯達格姑娘，他們可以很和諧。

這些話都是對的，但是我要回頭來說到我的本身了。這些美德於我是不夠的。單同着這些美德一起過日子是不值得我們早上起來。我渴望見你：我將到你那裏去，無論會有什麼事情發生。

3. to look down on—to despise 輕蔑。

Blackdeep, 30 Feb. 1833.

I cannot write an answer to your letter. You must come. I could not make up my mind last night, but this morning the light, the direction, as my mother used to say, was like a star. How you remind me of her! not in your lot but in your ways, and she had your black hair. She was a stranger to these parts. Where your grandfather first saw her I do not know, but she was from the hill country in the far south-west. She never would hear anything against our flats. When folk asked her if she did not miss the hills, she turned on them¹ as if she had been born in the Fens and said she had found something in them better than hills. But how I do wander on! That has nothing to do with you now, although I could tell you, if it were worth

1. to turn on——to retort 反唇相稽。

布拉克第普。二十日，二

月，一八三九。

我不能够回你的信。你一定得來這裏。昨晚我不能決定，但是今晨光線，指示出方向，我母親常說，正如一顆指迷的明星。你多麼使我憶她！不是你們命運相類，却是你們態度，她也有你那種黑髮。她不是生長在這裏的。你的父親第一次在什麼地方看見她，我不知道，但是她是來自西南遠方，羣山起伏的地方。她絕不肯聽人們毀罵我們的平原。當人們問她有沒有懷念家鄉的青山，她攔住他們好像她是在澤地生長大的，說道她覺得澤地有強過青山的地方。但是我說得離題太遠了！這些話現在同你都是不相干的，雖然我能够告訴你，若使這是值得說的，這些事是多麼有

while,¹ how it came into my head. I shall look out for you this week.

Lombard Street, 14 Mar. 1839.

Dear Esther,—You have now been away three weeks and I shall be glad to hear when you intend to return. Your mother I hope is better,² and if she is not, I trust you will see that your absence cannot be indefinitely prolonged. I am writing at the Bank, and your reply marked 'Private' should be addressed here. Some changes, now almost completed, are being made in the lower rooms at Homerton which will give me one for any business of my own.—Your affectionate husband,

Charles Craggs.

1. worth while——worth the time which it requires; worth the pains and expense 值得費那麼多的時間; 值得花那麼多的麻煩。

力地回到我的記憶裏。這星期裏我等候着你。

郎巴街，十四日，三月，一
八三九。

親愛的厄斯忒，——你現在已經離家三個月了，我很想知道你打算在什麼時候回來。我希望你母親的健康進步了，若使她並沒有好些，我相信你也會看到你的遠離不能夠無限度地延期。我此刻在銀行裏寫這封信，你的覆信，外面注明‘私函’，可以寄到這裏。荷馬墩底下一層的房子有些改造進行着，現在快完成了，將來我可以獨自有一間房子，隨便做我的事情。——你親愛的丈夫，查理斯·克刺格斯

2. 厄斯忒離開她的丈夫時一定託辭她母親身體不舒服，所以這裏她丈夫說希望她母親好些了。

Blackdeop, 17 Mar. 1839.

Dear Charles,—My mother is not well, and I shall be grateful to you if you will give me another week. I am sorry you have made alterations in the house without saying anything to me. It will be better now that I should not come back till they are finished.—Your affectionate wife,

Esther Craggs.

Homerton, 19 Mar. 1839.

The paperhangers and painters have left; the carpets will be laid and the furniture arranged to-day. I trust to see you when I come home on the 22nd instant. This will nearly give you the week you desired. I shall be late¹ at the Bank on the 22nd, but if you are fatigued with your journey there is no reason why you should not retire

1. I shall be late at the Bank 我在銀

布拉克第普，十七日，三

月，一八三九。

親愛的查理斯，——我母親還沒有好，我會很感謝你，若使你讓我再滯一星期。我覺得難過你把屋子裏面改造一番，却沒有先向我提過。現在還是等完全修改成功，我再回去好些。——你親愛的妻子，

厄斯忒·克刺格斯

荷馬墩，十九日，三月，一

八三九。

裱糊匠同油漆匠都已走了；今天要鋪上地毯，把傢俱排好。我相信本月二十二日我回家時候會看見你。這差不多給了你所要求的一星期時光了。二十二日我在銀行會滯遲些，但是若使你因為旅行疲倦

行裏會滯到比通常更遲的時候。

to rest, and we will meet in the morning.

Blackdeep, 21 Mar. 1839.

I had hoped for a little delay, for I shrank from the necessity of announcing my resolve, although it has for some time been fixed. I shall not return. The reason for my refusal shall be given with perfect sincerity. I do not love you, and you do not love me. I ought not to have married you, and I can but plead the blindness of youth, which for you is a poor excuse. I shall be punished for the remainder of my days, and not the least¹ part of the punishment will be that I have done you a grievous injury. Worse, however—ten thousand times worse—would it be for both of us if we were to continue chained together in

1. not the least—the greatest最大的。

了，你當然儘可以去休息，我們就在第二早見面。

布拉克第普，二十一日，三月，一八三九。

我希望多耽擱一會兒，因為我一想起宣布我的決心的必要就有些害怕，雖然那決心已打好一些時候了。我不回家了。我拒絕回家的理由將十分誠懇地說出。我沒有愛你，你沒有愛我。我不應該嫁你，我只能歸諉於青春的盲目，那由你看起來是個無聊的辯解。我的餘生將受這場過失的責罰，這責罰裏最大部分是我覺得對不住你，給你一個甚可悲傷的損害。然而，那是更壞——更壞得一萬倍——對於我們，

apathy or hatred. I would die for you this moment to make good¹ what you have lost through me, but to live with you as your wife would be a crime of which I dare not be guilty. This is all, and this is enough.

Homerten, 24 Mar. 1839.

Madam,—I am not surprised at the contents of your letter of the 21st instant, nor am I surprised that your determination should have been made known to me from your mother's house. I have no doubt that she has done her best² to inflame you against me. How she contrives to reconcile with her religion her advice to her daughter to break a divine law³ I will not inquire. I

1. to make good——to compensate 補償。

2. to do one's best——to do all one can.

若使我們繼續練在一起，在無情或厭惡之中。我願意此刻爲你死去，來報償你因我而受的損失；但是同你住一起，做你的妻子，這麼大的罪是我所不敢犯的。就是這些話了，這些話已經夠了。

荷馬墩，二十四日，三月，

一八三九。

太太，——我並不納罕你二十一日發的信的內容，我也不覺奇怪，你會從你母親家裏讓我知道你的決心。我深信她一定是盡力煽動你來反對我。她怎樣設法調和她的信仰同她叫她女孩去破壞一個神聖法律的勸告，我是不想探詢的。我現在不去規勸你，也絕對不去弄低

盡力；竭力。

3. a divine law 基督教徒認爲婚約是種神聖的契約，不能隨便取消的。

am not going to remonstrate with you; I will not humiliate myself by asking you to reconsider your resolution. I will, however, remind you of one or two facts, and point out to you the consequences of your action, so that hereafter you may be unable to plead you were not forewarned.

You will please bear in mind that *you* have abandoned *me*; I have not abandoned you. You disappointed me: my house was not managed in accordance with¹ my wishes, but I was prepared to accept the consequences of what I did deliberately and I desired to avoid open rupture. I hoped that in time² you would learn by experience that the maxims which control my conduct rest on a solid basis; that I

1. in accordance with — in harmony with 和諧;相合。

我自己的身分，請你重新考慮你的決議。然而，我要向你提醒一兩件事，指出給你看這舉動的結果，爲的是此後你不能說你沒有受過警告。

請你記在心裏，是‘你’棄了‘我’；我並沒有棄你。你使我失望：我的家庭沒有照我的希望管理着，但是我預備好忍受我審量再三後幹出的事情的結果，我總是想避免公開的破裂。我從前還希望你終久會從經驗裏看出管理着我的行動的那些格言是站在堅固的基礎上面；我最少是值得敬重的，我們可以和諧地一

2. in time—finally 終必。

was at least to be esteemed, and that we might live together in harmony. I repeat, you have cast me off, though I was willing you should stay.

You confess you have done me a wrong, but have you reflected how great that wrong is? I have no legal grounds for divorce, and you therefore prevent me from marrying again. You have damaged my position in the Bank. Many of my colleagues, envious of my success, will naturally seize their opportunity and propagate false reports, and I therefore inform you that I shall require of you a document which my solicitor will prepare, completely exonerating me. This will be necessary for my protection. A Bank manager's reputation is extremely sensitive, and a notorious infringement of any article of the moral code would in many quarters cause his commercial honesty to be suspected.

同過活。我還要說一遍，你棄掉了
我，雖然我是願意你還滯下去的。

你自認你給我一個損害，但是
你有沒有想過那損害是多麼大的？
我沒有法律上的理由可以離婚，所
以你阻止了我的再去結婚。你也破
壞了我在銀行的地位。許多同事，嫉
妒我的成功，當然會抓着他們的機
會，宣傳假造的謠言，所以我通知
你我要你簽一張我律師預備好的文
件，完全表白我的無罪。這對於我
的自保是必須的。一個銀行經理的
名譽是極易動搖的，道德律裏任一
條的衆目昭彰的干犯會在許多地方
引起他商業上的誠實也受人懷疑。

You allege that you are sincere, but I can hardly acquit you of hypocrisy. Your sentimental excuse for deserting me is suspicious.¹

When the document just mentioned has been signed, I shall send a copy of it to the rector of your parish. Without it he will know nothing but what you and your mother tell him, and he will be in a false position.²

I hereby caution you that I shall not lose sight of you, and if at any time proof of improper relationship should be obtained, I shall take advantage of it.

Charles Craggs.

Blackdeep, 26 Mar. 1839.

Dearest Mother,—This letter

1. 他不相信她單是因爲不愛他而離開他，總以爲一定是因爲她愛上了另一個男子，所以這裏冷諷一句。

2. false position—a position that

你申明你是誠懇的，但是我幾乎不能說你沒有虛偽。你棄我的理由——沒有感情——是令我生疑竇的。

當剛纔說的那個文件簽好字了，我將送一副本給你教區裏的牧師。沒有看到這個文件，他除開你和你母親告訴他的話外是一無所知的，他將處於幹出和他素來的主張相衝突的事情的地位了。

我還要警告你，我將永遠留神你，若使在任何時候我得到你不合法的關係的證據，我將利用那證據。

查理斯·克刺格斯

布拉克第普，二十六日，三月，一八三九。

最親愛的母親，——附上一封

makes one acts against one's principles 當一個人受人蒙蔽了，不知不覺間幹出跟自己的主張相違的事情時，我們說他處於一個，‘錯誤的地位’。

came this morning, and I send it at once to you at Ely. Am I to answer it? When I read some parts I wished he had been near me that I might have caught him by the throat. I should have exulted that for once¹ I could move him, although it should be by terror. It is strange that not until now did I know he was so brutal. Notice that, according to him, if a wife leaves her husband it must be for a rival. He does not understand how much she can hate him, body and soul, and with no thought of a lover; that her loathing needs no other passion to inflame it, and that the touch of his clean finger may be worse to her than a leper's embrace.

When I had written so far I was afraid. I knelt down and cried to our Father who is in Heaven.—Your

1. for once——one time at least 至少

信是今早收到的，我立刻轉到伊里給你看。我回他的信嗎？當我念到信裏面有些地方，我真希望他在我身旁，為的是我可以抓住他的咽喉。我將覺得高興，因為總有一回我能感動他，雖然都是用恐怖的手段。這真奇怪，一直到現在，我纔曉得他是這麼獸性十足的。請你注意，照他說的，若使一個妻子離開她的丈夫，那麼一定是為着另一個愛人的緣故。他不能了解她是多麼恨他，身體同靈魂兩方面都在內，而且絕沒有想到另一個愛人；她的厭惡用不着別個熱情來煽動，他那潔淨的手指的接觸由她看來比一個麻瘋人的擁抱更可怕。

當我寫了這麼多，我覺得恐懼。我跪下，哭求在天的上帝。

一次。

loving daughter,

Esther.

Ely, 28 Mar. 1839-

You must not reply. I have always tried not to answer back¹ if it will do no good. In a way² I am not sorry he has written in this style to you. It proves that the leading³ I had was true. I feared cruel claws ever since I first set eyes on him notwithstanding he was so even-tempered, and I am glad he has not shown them till you are safe in Blackdeep. I know what you will have to go through⁴ in time to come,⁵ but for all that⁶ I am sure I am right and that you are right. I am

1. to answer back——to rebuke sanily
刻薄地回罵。

2. in a way——in a certain sense 在某種意義之下。

3. leading——guidance 指導。

——你親愛的女兒

厄斯忒

伊里，二十八日，三月，

一八三九。

你千萬不要覆他的信。我素來不去反唇相稽，若使那是無補於事了。我也不很覺難過，他用這樣口氣寫信給你。那證明了我的嚮導是正確的。自從我第一次見到他，我就怕他具有可怕的利爪，不管他好像是多麼沒有脾氣；我很高興，你已安全地在布拉克第普之後，他纔露出利爪。我知道你將來會經歷多少苦痛，但是雖然有那麼多苦痛，我十分相信這一回舉動裏我是對的，

4. to go through——to suffer 遭受。

5. in time to come——in the future
time 將來。

6. for all that——in spite of that ;
nevertheless 雖然，無論。

more sure than ever. I am sorry for him, but he will soon settle down¹ and rejoice that you have gone. That spiteful word about my religion does not disturb me. I have my own religion. I have brought up my children in it. I have taught them to fear God and to love the Lord Jesus Christ, who has stood by² me in all my troubles and guided me in all my straits whenever I have been willing to wait His time. I bless God, my dear child, that you have not gone away from your mother's faith—ay, and your father's too—and that you can still pray to your Heavenly Father in your distress. Be thankful you have been spared the worst, that you have not grown hard.

I shall come back this week; your aunt wants you here, and a

1. to settle down—to become quiet
after agitation 紛擾後歸於平靜。

你是對的。我比以前更相信了。我爲他難過，但是很快他將把一切安排好，心裏高興你已離他了。他那句關於我的信仰的輕蔑的話沒有攪亂我。我有我自己的信仰。我用這信仰教育我的兒女。我教他們敬畏上帝，愛我們的救主耶蘇基督，在我一切苦難之中他總是援助我，在我一切窘迫裏他總是指導我，只要我願意等候他的啓示。我親愛的孩子，我感謝上帝，你沒有失却你母親的信仰——而且，也是你父親的——和你在你的煩惱裏還能夠向你的天父祈禱。你當感謝，你避免了那最可怕的情形，那是說你沒有弄得麻木心死了。

這星期裏我將回來；你的姨母

2. to stand by——to show oneself faithful to; to help 現出忠於；幫助，

change will do you good.

Blackdeep, 10 Apr. 1839.

I am glad you went to Ely, for yesterday the parson called to see you. He had received a letter from Mr. Craggs, and considered it his duty as a Christian minister to endeavour to bring about a reconciliation. I told him at once he might spare himself the pains, for they would be useless. He replied that I ought to think of the example. Well, at that I broke out.¹ I asked him whether that slut of a Quimby girl wasn't a worse example, who at five-and-twenty had married Horrocks, the hoary old wretch, for his money, and leads him a dog's life.² Had he ever warned either of them? They

1. to break out—to throw off restraint; to exclaim suddenly 扔開拘束; 忽然大喊出來。

希望你能到這裏來，變更一下環境於你將有好處。

布拉克第普，十日，四月，
一八三九。

我覺得高興，你到伊里去了？因為昨天牧師來拜望你。他接一封克刺格斯先生給他的信，認為那是一個基督教牧師的責任，去努力做成個和好如初。我立刻對他說他可省去這番辛苦，因為一切調停都是無用的。他答道我應當想這是多麼壞的一個例子。聽了這句話，我大怒了。我問他那個亂七八糟的金拜姑娘是不是一個更壞的例子，她二十五歲時候貪荷洛克斯，那個白髮蕭蕭的可憐的老頭子，的錢，嫁

2. to lead one a dog's life—to worry or persecute him 跟他搗亂，使度個苦痛的生活。

go to church regular. I was very free,' and I said I thought it was a bright example that a woman should have given up a fine house and money in London because there was no love with them, and should have come back to her mother at Blackdeep. Besides, I added, why should my Esther suffer a living death for years for the sake of the folk hereabouts? They weren't worth it. She was too precious for that. 'Oh!' but he went on again, 'they have souls to be saved. Husbands and wives may be led to imagine there is no harm in separating, and may yield to the temptations of unlawful love.' This made me very hot, and I gave it him back sharp² that a sinner could find in the Bible itself an excuse for his sin.

-
1. free——-outspoken 暢言無隱、
 2. to give it him back sharp——to

給他，使他過一種狗的生活。他向他們兩人曾經給過警告沒有？他們現在也是和別人一樣到禮拜堂去。我直截痛快地說一大篇話，我說我想這是個光明的例子，一個女人會因為夫婦中沒有愛情，就棄却倫敦城裏的好住宅和財富，回到布拉克第普她母親的家裏。而且，我還說，為什麼我的厄斯忒要為着這裏人們的緣故去忍受幾十年雖生猶死的生活？他們是不值得她的犧牲。她太可寶貴了。‘啊！’他却說道，‘他們有該受救的靈魂。丈夫們和妻子們也許因此會認為離居沒有什麼害處，會接受非法戀愛的引誘。’這句話使我很生氣，我深刻地駁他道一個想犯罪的人甚至於能夠從聖經裏找到他的犯罪的藉口。

reprimand him sharply 痛罵。

He said no more except that it would be a nice scandal for the Dissenters, and that he trusted God would bring me into a better frame of mind. He then went away. His reasoning went in at one ear and out at the other. Parsons are bound to preach by rule. It is all general ; it doesn't fit the ins and outs.¹

Blackdeep, 1 May 1839.

You had better stop at Ely as long as you can. Everybody is gossiping, for parson has told the story as he heard it from your husband. It is worse for Jim than for me, as he goes about among people here, and although they daren't say anything to him about you, there is no mistake as to what they think. Mrs. Horrocks inquired after me, and said she was sorry to hear of my trouble.

1. the ins and outs——all the details of

他不講什麼，只說這將給非國教徒一個很妙的誹謗機會，同他相信上帝將叫我懷個更高明的意見。他於是走去了。他的理論這邊耳朵進來，從那邊耳朵出去。牧師不得不照例說教。說的全是空泛的話，不宜於解決人生裏個個複雜的問題。

布拉克第普，一日，五月，

一八三九。

你能在伊里住多久，就住多久罷。這裏個個人都拿你這件事做談話的題材，因為牧師照他從你丈夫所聽來的向人說出這事的始末。小傑比我更苦，因為他在這裏跟人們來往；雖然他們不敢向他提起你的什麼事情，他明白地看出他們心裏

the matter 詳細情形。

Jim told her I was quite well, and that the two cows were now all right. He wouldn't let her see he knew what she meant.

Last night, Jim, who has been talking for a twelve-month past about going to his cousin in America, asked me whether I would not be willing to leave. I have always set my face against¹ it. To turn my back on² the old house and the Fen, to begin again at my time of life in a new strange world would be the death of me. More than ever now am I determined to end my days here. They'd say at once we had fled. No. here we'll bide and face it out.³

They did not fly. Years went

1. to set one's face against —— to oppose 反對。

2. to turn one's back on —— to leave 離

惹的是什麼。荷洛克斯太太詢我的近況，說她覺得難過，聽到我在煩惱裏。小傑告訴她我身體很健康，我們那兩匹牛也很好。他不讓她看出他知道她所指的是什麼。

小傑這一年來老是談着到美洲找他的表兄弟，昨晚問我願意不願意出國。我素來是反對他這個計劃。轉過身來離開這所老屋子同樊，在我這樣年紀再到一個生疏的新世界裏開始另一幕的生活，這對於我幾乎是等於死。比以前更堅決，我打定主意在這裏度過我的餘生。否則，他們一定立刻說我們逃了。不，我們將滯在這裏，抵抗這些評論到底。

她們並沒有逃走。一年一年地

開。

3. to face it out——not be cowed by it 不給牠所威嚇住。

on, and to the astonishment of their neighbours—perhaps they were a little sorry—there was no sigh that Esther had a lover. Mrs. Horrocks's eyes were feline, but she was obliged to admit she was at fault. Jim married, and an agreeable opportunity was presented for the expression of amazement that his wife's father and mother felt safe in allowing their child to enter such a family—but then she come from Norwich.¹ The majority of the poor in Black-deep Fen sided with the Suttons,² and here and there a pagan farmer boldly declared that old Mrs. Sutton and her daughter were of a right good sort, and that there was not a straightforrarder³ man than Jim

1. 他們只好說因爲小傑妻子的家族是外鄉人，不知道他姊姊的浪漫行爲，所以肯把女孩嫁到這樣人的家裏。

2. the Suttons —— 當提到一家裏好幾

過去了，她們的鄰居真覺得奇怪——也許她們有些失望——並沒有看出什麼可以證明厄斯忒有一個愛人。荷洛克斯太太的眼睛是不斷地四面觀察，像個貓的眼睛，但是她也迫得只好承認她錯了。小傑結婚了，這是一個很好的機會給他們去表示驚奇，他妻子的父母居然放心讓他們的孩子進到這麼一個家庭——但是她是來自瑙威池，所以又作別論了。布拉克第普·樊大多數的窮人是站在薩吞母女這邊的，在一些地方有一兩個具有異教徒精神的農夫大膽地宣言薩吞老夫人同她的女兒是好人，同伊里市場裏沒有

個人時候，就將這家的姓加上 s，上面再用一 the 字。

3. straight forrarder——more straight-forward 鄉下人的口音同文法總是奇怪一點。

in Ely market. But to respectable Blackdeep society the Suttons remained a vexatious knot which it could not unpick and lay straight. Nobody, as Mrs. Horrocks observed, knew how to take them. Mrs. Craggs wore her wedding-ring, and when she was in Mrs. Jarvis's shop looked her straight in the face¹ and asked for what she wanted as if she were the parson's wife.² But that, according to Mrs. Horrocks, just showed her impudence. 'What a time that poor Craggs in London must have had of it:' (Mr. Horrocks was not present). 'Lord! how I do pity the man.' 'And yet,' added Mrs. Jarvis, 'and yet, you might eat your dinner³ off Mrs. Craggs's floor.'

1. to look one in the face——to regard one firmly or boldly堅決地或者勇敢地看着他。

2. 牧師在小鄉村裏幾乎是全村最尊敬的

一個比小傑再正直坦白的人了。但是在布拉克第普上等社會裏，薩吞家仍然是一根無法解鬆同拉直的麻煩結子。荷洛克斯太太就說，沒有人知道怎樣去了解她們。克刺格斯太太還戴她的結婚戒指，當她在查維思太太鋪子裏，她睜着眼睛望她，叫拿她所需要的東西，好像她是牧師太太。但是照荷洛克斯太太的意見，這正表現出她的厚顏無恥。‘可憐的克刺格斯從前在倫敦過的是多麼苦的日子呀！’（荷洛克斯先生當時不在場）‘天呀！我多麼哀憐他。’‘然而，’查維思太太說道，‘然而，你可以站在克刺格斯太太的

人，他的太太當然配得睥睨一世了。

3. to eat one's dinner——to be studying for the bar 用功預備當律師。

I call it hers, for she cleans it.¹ Clearly the living-room ought to have been a pigsty. It was particularly annoying that, although Mrs. Sutton and her family by absence from church had become infidels, they did not go to the devil² openly as they ought to do, and thereby relieve Blackdeep of that pain and even hatred which are begotten by an obstinate exception to what would otherwise be a general law. Parson often preached that everybody was either a sheep or a goat.³ The Suttons were not sheep—that was certain; and yet it was difficult to classify them as ordinary Blackdeep

1. 這裏是譏笑厄斯忒現在要幹許多粗事情，如擦地板之類。

3. a sheep or a goat——見新約馬太福音中。‘當人子在他榮耀裏，同着衆天使降臨的時候，要坐在他榮耀的寶座上，萬君都要聚集在他面前。他要把他們分別出來，好像牧羊

地板上學當個辯護士。我叫做克刺格斯太太的，因為那些地板是她洗掃的。'分明的，她們閒坐的房子應當變得不淨像個豬圈。這真是特別惱人，雖然薩吞太太同她女兒因為不到禮拜堂已經變為異教徒了，她們並沒有鬼混得一塌胡塗，其實她們應當那樣，而使布拉克第普的人們免受見到一個常例有一個頑梗的例外時所嘗的苦痛，甚至於痛恨。牧師常常說一個人不是一隻綿羊，就是一隻山羊。薩吞母女不是綿羊——這是一點不錯的事實；但是也不容易把她們歸類於普通布拉克第

的分別綿羊山羊一般。把綿羊安置在右邊，山羊在左邊。於是王向那右邊的說，你們這蒙我父賜福的，可來承受那創世以來為你們所預備的國。' 所以後來就拿綿羊山羊來比喻善人惡人。

goats, creatures with horns. Mrs. Jarvis had heard that there was a peculiar breed of goats with sheep's wool and without horns. 'Esther Craggs,' she maintained, 'will one day show us what she's after ;¹ mark my word, you'll see. If that brazen face means nothing, then I'm stone-blind.'

After Jim's marriage Esther continued to manage the house and the dairy, leaving the cooking to her sister-in-law and the needlework to her mother. Soon after five o'clock on a bright summer morning the labourer going to his work heard the unbarring of Mrs. Sutton's shutters and the withdrawal of bolts. The casement windows and the door were then flung open, and Esther generally came into the doorway and for a few minutes faced the sun. She did not

1. after——in pursuit or quest of 尋求

普的山羊，那班頭上有角的東西。查維思太太聽說天下有特種的山羊，身上有綿羊的羊毛，又沒有角。‘厄斯忒克刺格斯，’她堅持，‘有一天會現出給我們看她所追求的是什麼；記着我的話，你們將來會看見到。若使那個厚臉孔沒有含有意義，那麼我真是個十分的瞎子。’

小傑結婚後，厄斯忒繼續管理家務同牛乳房，烹飪讓她嫂子去幹，針線讓她母親去幹。夏天的清晨，五點鐘打過了一會兒，工作去的工人會聽到薩吞太太的戶扉去門，鐵栓也拿開了。窗子同大門都打開了，厄斯忒常常走到門口，望着太陽幾分鐘。她并不把自己關閉起來。她在鄉裏走路，有如一個皇

的。

shut herself up.¹ She walked the village like a queen, and no Fen farmer or squireling² ventured to jest with her. Mrs. Jarvis could not be brought to admit her stone-blindness and clung to the theory of somebody in London; but as Esther never went to London, and nobody from London came to her, and the postmistress swore no letters passed between London and the Sutton family, Mrs. Jarvis became a little distrusted, although some of her acquaintances believed her predictions with greater firmness as they remained unfulfilled. 'I don't care what you may say; don't tell me,' was her reply to sceptical objections, and it carried great weight.

Esther died of the Blackdeep fever in the fifth year after she came

1. to shut oneself up—to imprison oneself 把自己囚閉起來。

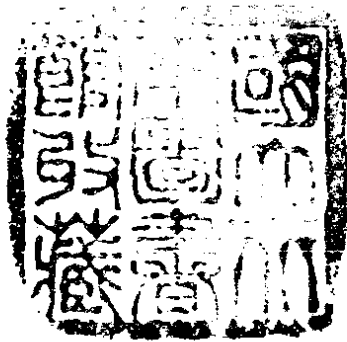
后，樊裏沒有一個農夫或者小地主敢向她開玩笑。查維斯不肯承認她的完全盲目，緊抓着倫敦有個情人的理論；但是因為厄斯忒絕沒有到倫敦去，也沒有人從倫敦來找她，郵務員太太又誓言倫敦同薩吞家沒有信函來往，查維思太太也變得有些懷疑了，雖然有幾位朋友更堅決地相信她的預言，因為牠們還沒有實現。‘我不管你們怎麼說；你們不要告訴我’，這是她對於懷疑主義者的詰問的答辭，這句話是具有很大的効力的。

厄斯忒在她回家後五年患布拉克第普流行熱病死了。他一聽她死

2. squireling——a petty squire 小地主；小鄉紳。

home. AS soon as he received the news of her death Mr. Craggs married Mrs. Perkins, who had been twelve months a widow, was admitted into partnership, and is now one of the most respected men in the City.

的消息，克刺格斯先生立刻娶柏金
茲太太，她已當一年的寡婦了，他
也被認爲一個股東，現在是京城裏
一個受人們尊敬的人物。



1980 12 初版

1981 6 再版

3001 ——— 6000

實價銀二角五分

