

詩人的手提包

英文小叢書之一

# 詩人的手提包

梁遇春譯註

這  
是  
書  
中  
從  
生  
活  
的  
書

主 海

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每冊實價二角半

George Gissing 1857——1903

他的父親是一個藥劑師，他受過良好的教育，能够拿希臘詩歌做消愁解悶的東西。十九歲時候，他被一個普通的女人迷了，把她娶來，還偷一位朋友的皮夾子給她，因此下獄。二十歲時候，流落到美國去，當照相師，裝置煤氣燈的人，報館訪員糊口。後來從德國回英國來，專靠寫稿子謀生，但是常有得不到東西吃的時候，英國博物

院的盥洗所是他唯一洗澡的地方。他的妻子變成醉鬼，後來甚至於隨便當人姘頭。她死了，他又不能忍受寂寞的獨身生活，就向隨便遇到的女人求婚，把她娶來。起先他的朋友再三勸阻他，但是他天真地答道：‘他們同樣地可以叫他不吃通常的食物，因為過幾年後他能夠買到精美的食品；然而他每天不能不有些滋養料；現在他到了一個時期，當他非有一個妻子伴着就不能過日子’。他還說：‘天下只有可憐的女子纔肯嫁給我這麼一個可憐的男子。’他們婚後的生活是不幸極了，終於離散。晚年他娶一個法國女人，他小說的銷路也漸漸好起來了，生活也比較舒適些，然而夕陽無限好，不久就死了。

他寫有許多長篇小說 (The Un-  
classified (1884) Demos (1886) Thyrsa (1887)  
The Nether World (1889) New Grub Street  
(1891) Denzil Quarrier (1892) Born in Exile  
(1892) Odd Women (1893) 多半是描狀  
倫敦貧民窟同工廠的灰色生活。他  
終身住在倫敦小屋的頂樓上，和下  
流的人們一起過活，深嘗過貧窮的  
苦痛，所以對於下等社會特別有同  
情。他又是個悲觀主義者，覺得世  
上無處不是淒涼的境地，太陽光總  
不會射到屋裏。他極能道出失敗人  
的心理，并且他的失望始終含有惆  
悵的詩意，所以他的書對於淪落  
的人們有極大的魔力。他晚年寫有  
一本散文，The Private Papers of Henry  
Ryecroft，充滿了恬靜幽怨的情調，  
是散文裏一部傑作。他還有幾本短

篇小說集，(Human Odds and Ends, A Victim of Circumstances, The House of Cobwebs) 上面這篇，‘詩人的手提包’就是收在‘人生的零碎’(Human Odds and Ends) 裏面。

他說：‘當今的藝術應當傳達出‘困苦’的意義，因為困苦是近代生活的基本音調 (Keynote)’。這句話可說是他的藝術論。

**THE POET'S PORTMANTEAU**

**(詩人的手提包)**



## THE POET'S PORTMANTEAU

The poet had been nourishing his soul down<sup>1</sup> in Devon. A petty windfall, a minim legacy, which plucked him from scholastic bondage<sup>2</sup> in a London suburb, was now all but<sup>3</sup> consumed. He turned his face once more to the mart of men,

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1. down——adv. in a place away from capital 在都市以外的地方；鄉下裏。

2. scholastic —— 當教師的。教書匠這一行生意本來叫做 the scholastic profession

## 詩人的手提包

詩人最近在得文鄉下滋養他的靈魂。一筆意外的小款，一點兒遺產，把他從倫敦郊外教讀生涯的束縛裏拔出，現在這些錢幾乎用盡了。他又回過臉來，向着人們的市

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(教職，直譯起來是書生職業。)

3. all but——nearly: almost 幾乎；差不多。

strong in the sanguine courage of two-and-twenty. His luggage (the sum total<sup>1</sup> of his personal property, except<sup>2</sup> twenty pounds sterling) consisted of a trunk and a portmanteau. The latter he kept beside him in the railway carriage—a small and very shabby portmanteau, but it guarded the result of ten months' work, the manuscript volume (entitled *The Hermit of the Tor; and Other Poems*) whereon rested all his hopes. A few articles of clothing and of daily necessity were packed in the same receptacle. On reaching London he would deposit his trunk at the station, and carry the small portmanteau whilst he searched for a temporary lodging.

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1. sum total——the amount, 總共; 合計。

2. except——“除了二十鎊外, 他的財產

場，滿腔是二十二歲青年具有的樂天自信的勇氣。他的行李（再加上二十磅現金，就是他私人財產的全部了）一共只是一個大箱子和一個手提包。在火車裏他將這手提包放在身邊——一個很破舊的小號手提包，但是牠保護有十月辛苦工作的結果，手寫的稿本（書名是‘托爾的隱者；和其牠’）他一切的希望都在這本書上面。幾件衣服和日用必需品也裝進這同一的提包裏面。到倫敦時候，他將把他的大箱子存火車站裏面，帶着這個小手提包去找個暫時寄宿的地方。

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總共是……’這是等於說‘他的財產是二十鎊和……’

Green vales and bosky<sup>1</sup> slopes of Devon; the rolling uplands of Wiltshire; the streams and heaths and wooded hills of Surrey. It was late autumn, and the day drew to its close. Through mists of evening a red orb hung huge above the horizon; it crimsoned and grew lurid, athwart the first driftings<sup>2</sup> of London smoke; it disappeared amid towers and chimneys and squalor multiform. The poet grasped his portmanteau, and leapt out on to the platform of Waterloo Station.

One cheap room was all he wanted, and as he could not carry his burden very far he turned southward, guided by memory of the grey, small streets off Kennington Road. Twenty minutes' walk brought

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1. bosky——having bosk or boscage 有灌木的：小林甚多。

火車經過了得文的綠色的山谷和樹木叢生的斜坡；尉爾次的峯巒起伏的高原；薩立的河流，沼地和森林茂盛的小山。這是晚秋的時候，白天快結束了。隔着黃昏的霧看去，一輪紅日龐大地掛在水平線之上；牠變成深紅的顏色，漸漸慘淡無光了，橫於倫敦最外層的煙霧之後；牠消失在高塔，煙囪和各樣各式的齷齪東西裏面了。詩人抓起他的手提包，跳到滑鉄盧火車站的月臺上。

一間租錢低廉的房子是他唯一的需要；他既不能帶他這手提包走得很遠，他就靠着他對於離肯寧頓路不遠的幾條灰色，小街的記憶，望

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2. driftings——drifts 飄浮物

him into a by-way where every other<sup>1</sup> window offered its card of invitation to wanderers such as he. At this hour of gloom there was little to choose<sup>2</sup> between one house and another. A few paces ahead of him sounded the knock of a telegraph messenger. Where telegrams were delivered there must be, he thought, some measure of<sup>3</sup> civilization; so he lingered till the boy had gone away, then directed his steps to that door.

His rat-tat<sup>4</sup> was answered by a young woman, whose personal appearance surprised him. Her features were handsome and intelligent, though scarcely amiable; her clothing indicated poverty, but was not such

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1. every other——each alternate 每隔一個。

2. little to choose between them——one is almost as good as another 彼此差不多；用不着怎樣揀選。

南走去。二十分鐘的徒步帶到一條僻路，那裏每隔一家的窗子上都有招徠他這種流蕩者的廣告。當這個黃昏時節，也看不出這家和那家的高下。在他前面幾步的地方有一個送電報人敲門的聲音。他想，有電報投遞去的人家多少總有點文化；所以他停步等那送電報的小孩子走開，然後他的脚步望那個門走去。

他的敲門有一個青年女人出來應話，她的外貌使他驚奇。她的臉孔是美麗聰明，雖然幾乎可以說是并不和藹可親；她的衣服指出她的貧窮，然而又不是勞動階級的一

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3. some measure of——some degree of 有一些。

4. rat-tat——敲門的聲音，這個字的聲音就是模倣敲門的剝啄。



as would be worn by a girl of the working class; her language and manner completed the proof<sup>1</sup> that she was no native of this region. "Yes," she said, speaking distantly and nervously, "a single room was to let, a room up at the top." The poet, as became a poet, observed with emotional interest this unexpected figure. Only a wretched little oil-lamp hung in the passage, and he could not see the girl's face very distinctly; perhaps the first impression of sullenness was a mistake; it might be only the shrinking self-respect of one whom circumstances had forced into a false position. He noticed that in her hand she held a telegram.

"Would you let me see the room?"

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1. completed the proof —— 完全證實。  
本來證據不夠，現在再加上這點，可以十分明白