THE PEARL OF LOVE AND OTHERS

BY

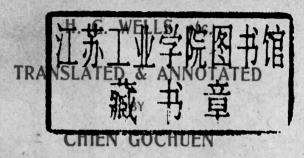
H. G. WELLS, etc.



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THE PEARL OF LOVE AND OTHERS

BY



這裏選譯的十篇小說,除了 Charels Lever 以外,其餘都是美英現在的作家。 H. G. Wells 當然是老大家了, 其餘差不多都是新進。選譯的時候並沒有打算要出這個集 子,僅是隨時讀到,覺得還有點意思,便把它譯出來了。

現在用英漢對照的辦法,刊印成冊,不僅可作學習英 文的課本,同時也可作為一本短篇小說選集來讀·

至於爲什麼要拿「愛珠」一篇來作書名,那是毫無理由的。

民國三十四年六月 錢歌川於重慶・

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愛珠

THE PEARL OF LOVE

CON CREGAN'S LEGACY

BY CHARLES LEVER

I was born in a little cabin on the borders of Meath and King's County: it stood on a small triangular bit of ground, beside a crossroad; and although the place was surveyed every ten years or so, they were never able to say to which county we belonged, there being just the same number of arguments for one side as for the other-a circumstance, many believed, that decided my father in his original choice of the residence; for while, under the "disputed boundary question," he paid no rates or county cess,1 he always made a point of voting at both country elections! This may seem to indicate that my parent2 was of a naturally acute habit; and indeed the way he became *possessed of3 the bit of ground will confirm that impression.

There was nobody of the rank of gentry⁴ in the parish, nor even squireen;⁵ the richest being a farmer, a snug old fellow, one⁶ Henry M'Cabe, that had two sons, who were always fighting between themselves which was to have the old man's money. Peter, the elder, doing everything

^{1.} 税. 2. 指父親. 3. 所有. 4. 紳士, 鄉紳. 5. 华農半紳的人.

康克雷剛的遺產

我生在米斯和玉郡邊界上的一個小屋子裏: 那屋子建在一塊小三角形的土地上,在一條交叉路的旁邊,雖則那地方每隔十年光景要來勘察一次,他們却從來說不出那是屬於那一郡的,雙方的議論都一樣言之成理——許多人都相信,就是那種情形使得我父親選定這地方來居家的;因為在那種爭訟不決的疆界問題之下,他可以不付郡稅,不納捐款,而在兩郡的選舉中,他都能得到投票的權利!這好像是表示我父親有一種天生銳敏的習慣;而以他佔住那塊地方的情形看來,確要證實人們對他的那種印象。

在那教區裏面,沒有一個縉紳,甚至連一個半農半紳的人都沒有;最關的是一個農夫,一個生活舒服的老頭兒,名叫亨利·馬凱甫,他有兩個兒子,他們為着想爭這老頭兒的財產,兩兄弟時常要打架。大哥彼得想盡種種方

⁶⁻ 一個姓.....的人.

to injure Mat, and Mat never backward in *paying off⁷ the obligation. At last Mat, tired out in the struggle, resolved he would bear⁸ no more. He *took leave of⁹ his father one night, and next day *set off¹⁰ for Dublin, and 'listed¹¹ in *the "Buffs.''¹² Three weeks after, he sailed for India; and the old man, overwhelmed by grief, *took to¹³ his bed, and never arose from it after.

Not that his death was any way sudden, for he lingered on for months longer; Peter alway: teasing him to make his will, and he revenged on "the dirty spalpeen" that disgraced the familys but old Harry as stoutly resisting and declaring that whatever he owned should be fairly divided between them.

These disputes between them were well known in the neighbourhood. *Few of the country people passing the house at night but¹7 had overheard the old man's weak reedy¹8 voice, and Peter's deep hoarse one,¹9 in altercation.²0 When, at last—it was on a Sunday night—all was still and quiet in the house; not a word, not a footstep, could be heard, no more than if it were uninhabited, the neighbours looked knowingly at each other, and wondered if the old man were worse—if he were dead!

^{7.} 報復. 8. 忍受. 9. 向.....告辭. 10. 出發. 11. =exlisted

法,來傷害他的弟弟馬特,而馬特也從來不肯示弱,隨時 予以報復。最後馬特對於那種閱牆的事感到厭倦了,決定 不能再忍受。他有天晚上,和他父親告了辭,第二天便出 發到都伯林去了,在那裏他投入了老第三軍去吃糧。三 個月之後,便開拔到印度去了;而那老頭兒,傷心幼子離 家,竟病倒在床上,從此不起。

不過他並沒有突然死去,他纏綿牀褥,也過了好幾個 月的時候;大兒子彼得常常要固請他立下一份遺囑,以便 對那玷辱家擊的「髒小子」復仇:可是老頭兒却堅持不 肯,而聲言他所有的財產,要給兩個兒子平均分配。

父子間的這種爭持,鄰舍大家都知道。有幾個鄉下人 晚上在他們家門口走過,總要聽到那老頭兒柔弱的聲音, 和彼得粗暴的言語,你一句我一句地在爭論着。終至,在 一個禮拜天的晚上,那屋子裏一切都寂靜了;沒有一句說 話的聲音,沒有一聲脚步,可以聽見了,就好像那屋子 裏,不曾任得有人似的,鄰人面面相窺,彼此心照,亟想 知道那老頭兒是不是病危,是不是已經死去!

應募入伍。 12. 英國老第三團。即今之 The East Kent Regiment. 13. 竞至病倒。 14. 少年,無用的镓伙。 15. 即 Henry 的俗稱。 16. 公平地。 17. 差不多沒有在夜裏經過他家不...... 18. 很弱的像蘆笛聲一般的。 19. voice. 20. 爭論,口角。

It was a little after midnight that a knock came to the door of our cabin.²¹ I heard it first, for I used to sleep in a little snug basket near the fire; but I didn't speak, for I was frightened. It was repeated still louder, and then came a cry: "Con Cregan; Con, "I say,²² open the door! I want you." I knew the voice well; it was Peter M'Cabe's; but I pretended to be "fast asleep,²³ and snored loudly. As last my father unbolted the door, and I heard him say, "Oh, Mr. Peter, what's the matter? is the ould²⁴ man worse?"

"Faix25 that's what he is! for he's dead!"

"Glory be his bed! When did it happen?"

"About an hour ago," said Peter, in a voice that even I from my corner could perceive was greatly agitated. "He died like an ould haythen,²⁶ Con, and never made a will!"

"That's bad," says my father, for he was always a polite man, and said whatever was pleasing to the company.

"It is bad," said Peter; "but it would be worse if we couldn't help it. Listen to me now, Corny, I want ye²⁷ to help me in this business; and here's five guineas in goold,²⁸ if ye do what I bid ye. You know that ye were always reckoned

^{21.} 小屋. 22. 喂. 23. 睡熟. 24. =old. 25. =fixedly, 確然.

在夜半甫過,我們小屋子的門上,便有人來敲門了。 我最初聽見,因為我老是睡在火爐旁邊舒服的筐子裏的; 但是我沒有答應,夜半敲門,把我嚇倒了。敲門的聲音愈 來愈大,隨着有一個聲音叫出:『康克雷剛;老康,開門 呀!我要找你有事。』那聲音我很熟習;那是彼得·馬凱 甫;但是我仍然裝做睡熟了,故意大聲地打着鼾。終於我 父親起來把門打開了,我聽見他說,『哦,彼得先生,有 什麼事?老頭兒很糟嗎?』

『他確是很糟呀!因為他已經死了!』

『願他安息! 那是什麼時候的事?』

『大約在一小時以前,』彼得說,他的聲音很激昂, 我甚至睡在那角落上,也可以聽得出來。『老康,他像一個異教徒一樣地死去了,竟至沒有立下一份遺囑來!』

『那很不好,』我父親說,因為他時常是一個很客氣的人,說的話都是使對手聽得高興的。

『這很不好,』被得說;『但是如果我們沒有辦法,那豈不很壞。現在,老康,請你聽我說吧。我要你在這件事情上幫助我一下;這兒是五基尼的金幣,如果你肯照我

^{26. -}heathen 異教徒. 27. -you. 28. -gold.

the image²⁹ of my father, and before he took ill ye were mistaken for each other every day of the week."

"Anan!" said my father; for he was getting frightened at the notion, without well knowing why.

"Well, what I want is, for ye to come over to the house, and get into the bed."

"Not beside the corpse?" said my father, trembling.

*"By no means, 30 but by yourself; and you're to pretend to be my father, and that ye want to make yer 31 will before ye die; and then I'll send for the neighbours, and Billy Scanlan the school-master, and ye'll tell him what to write, laving 32 all the farm and everything to me—ye understand. And as the neighbours will see ye, and hear yer voice, it will never be believed but that it was himself that did it."

"The room must be very dark," says my father.

"To be sure it will, but have no fear! Nobody will dare to come nigh³³ the bed; and ye'll only have to *make a cross³⁴ with yer pen under the name."

^{29.} 影像 (因為他們兩人很相像). 30. 決不. 31. - your.

的辦。你知道人們常認為你很像我父親,在他生病以前, 每天別人都要把你們兩個弄錯人的。』

『哎呀!』我父親說;因為他不曉得彼得什<u>麽意思</u>, 聽見他那樣一說有點嚇倒了。

『好吧,我所要的是請你到我家裏去一次,睡到那床 上。』

『該不是要我睡在死屍旁邊吧?』我父親戰慄地問 了。

『決不是,床上只有你一個人;你去假裝做我的父親,而在死之前要立下你的遺囑;你去了之後,我便要把那些鄰舍找來,和那學堂裏的老師,你告訴他怎樣寫,把所有的農場和一切都遺傳給我——你懂得的。當鄰舍看見你,聽到你說話,他們一定相信是我父親本人幹的。』

『那房間裏一定要很暗才行,』我父親說。

那一定,但是你不要怕!誰也不敢走近來;寫好你只 消在名字下面用筆劃個十字就成了。』

^{32. =}leaving. 33. =near. 34. 代替簽字.

"And the priest?" said my father.

"My father quarrelled with him last week about the Easter dues: and Father Tom said he'd not give him the 'rites': and that's lucky now! Come along now, quick, for we've no time to lose: it must be all finished before the day breaks."

My father did not lose much time at his toilet, for he just wrapped his big coat 'round³⁵ him, and slipping on his brogues,³⁶ left the house. I sat up in the basket and listened till they were gone some minutes; and then, in a costume as light as my parent's, set out after them, to watch the course of the adventure. I thought to take a *short cut,³⁷ and be before them; but by bad luck I fell into a bog³⁸ hole, and only escaped being drowned by chance. As it was, when I reached the house, the performance had already begun.

I think I see the whole scene *this instant³⁹ before my eyes, as I sat on a little window with one pane,⁴⁰ and that a broken one, and surveyed the proceeding. It was a large room, at one end of which was a bed, and beside it a table, with *physic bottles,⁴¹ and spoons, and teacups; a little farther off was another table, at which sat Billy Scanlan, with all manners of writing materials

^{35. =}around. 36. 粗鞋. 37. 捷徑. 38. 池沼. 39. 現在.

『那牧師呢;』我父親問。

『我父親為着復活節納付會費的事,上禮拜和他鬧翻 了:托姆神父說,將來不替他行任何儀式:而現在這倒反 而好些!快點吧,現在我們就去,因為再遲時間來不及 了:在天亮以前,一切都得辦好。』

我父親很快就打扮好了,因為他只披了一件大衣在身上,再穿上一雙粗鞋,便離家去了。我在爐框中早坐了起來,豎耳聽着,等他們走了好幾分鐘,才起來穿上我父親一樣的輕裝,也追蹤而去,去看他們扮演那一慕戲。我想要插近路去,好在他們之先達到那裏;但是不幸跌到池沼裏,險些兒淹死了。因為這樣一來,等我走到他們那屋子的時候,那表演已經開始了。

我想,那整個的情形,現在還歷歷在我目前,當時我 坐在那一塊玻璃的,而且是一塊破玻璃的小窗子前面,觀 察那種進行。那是一間大房間,一頭是一張床,床邊有 一張桌子,桌上有藥瓶,調匙和茶杯之類;離開一點,還 有一張桌子,桌前坐着那位學堂裏的老師,他前面擺着筆

^{40.} 窗玻璃. 41. 藥瓶.

before him. The country people sat *two, sometimes three, deep⁴² round the walls, all intently eager and anxious for the coming event. Peter himself went from place to place, trying to smother his grief, and occasionally helping⁴³ the company to whisky—which was supplied with more than accustomed liberality.

All my consciousness of the deceit and trickery could not deprive the scene of a certain solemnity. The misty distance of the half-lighted room; the highly wrought⁴⁴ expression of the country people's faces, never more intensely excited than at some moment of this kind; the low, deep-drawn breathings, unbroken save⁴⁵ by a sigh or a sob—the tribute of affectionate sorrow to some lost friend, whose memory was thus forcibly brought back: these, I repeat it, were all so real, that, as I looked, a thrilling sense of awe stole over me, and I actually shook with fear.

A low faint cough, from the dark corner where the bed stood, seemed to cause even a deeper stillness; and then in a silence where the buzzing of a fly would have been heard, my father said: "Where's Billy Scanlan? I want to make my will!"

^{42.} 二重或三重厚. 43. 敬. 44. 做作的. 45. =except

墨紙張。鄉下人圍着四壁,兩個有時三個一重重地坐着, 都對於馬上要來的事很熱烈而切望着。彼得本人便這裏那 裏走來走去,試想抑制他的悲慟,有時也給來賓敬酒,那 時酒的供給是比向例要慷慨得多。

我雖明知這一切都不外是欺騙和詭計,但那場面看去仍不失其相當的莊嚴。那年明的房間裏的迷濛的距離,那些鄉下人面孔上勉强做出的表情,在同樣情形中從來沒有這樣興奮的;只聽見低微而深深的呼吸,大家都靜默着一言不發,除非是一聲歎息或是欷歔——對於一個死去的朋友哀悼的表示,這時特別地回憶到他:這些,我再說一遍,都做得那般真實,當我望着的時候,竟使我發生了一種戰慄之處,我真個地恐怖得發抖了。

從那佈着床鋪的黑暗角落上,發出一聲低微的咳嗽, 好像惹起了一種更深的靜穆;於是在那一個蒼蠅的嗡嗡聲 都可以聽見的寂靜之中,我的父親說話了:『老師在那 裏?我要立遺囑!』