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对照
全译

英语大书虫世界文学名著文库

七角楼

The House of the Seven Gables

(美) 霍桑 著

英语学习大书虫研究室 译

ENGLISH

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世界文学名著文库

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(美)纳撒尼尔·霍桑 著
英语学习大书虫研究室 译

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FOREWORD

导 读

纳撒尼尔·霍桑(1804-1864)是美国十九世纪的著名作家,其文学作品及其艺术成就对当时和后世都有重大影响。

霍桑一八〇四年七月出生于马萨诸塞州的塞勒姆市。他出生于一个古老的新英格兰家庭。他从小就喜爱文学,专心读书,如班扬的《天路历程》和斯宾塞的《仙后》。大学毕业他便开始写作,一八四二年出版了第一个短篇小说集《重讲一遍的故事》。霍桑的一生,除为生活所迫短期担任过海关职务和晚期成名后出任海外领事之外,一生几乎都在从事写作。霍桑的文学成就主要表现在《红字》、《七角楼》、《福谷传奇》和《云石牧神》等长篇小说上,而且表现在像《拉帕西尼医生的女儿》、《胎记》、《我的亲戚,莫里奈克斯少校》、《伊桑·布兰德》和《年轻的布朗先生》等一系列短篇故事上。

《七角楼》是霍桑在《红字》之后发表的又一部重要作品。他在一封信中曾这样写道:“我认为《七角楼》比《红字》写得好,虽然我把主要人物写得也许有点儿超出了大众欣赏口味,背景也不见得和我所说的那个简陋而熟悉的地方一模一样。但是我感到,其中有些部分是我能写出的最好文字……”从这段话中可以看出,作者本人对《七角楼》的评价是非常高的,认为是自己的得意之作。与《红字》相比,它的人物更加生动活泼,它的爱情故事更加美妙真实,它的背景更富有生活气

息。

《七角楼》以一桩宗教迫害案为起点,描写了一个殖民时期望族的家运。在故事中占据中心地位的一幢带有七个尖角阁的房子有着一段血迹斑斑的罪恶历史。殖民时期,平钦上校依仗权势霸占了建筑师莫尔的一块地皮,还捏造罪名把莫尔当作巫师烧死以消除后患。上校不顾莫尔临死时的诅咒,在这块地皮上建造了一座豪华的七角楼,可是在房子落成之时上校本人暴死。一百多年来,凡是继承了这幢房子的平钦家族的后代,个个都遭到灾祸,七角楼成了一座凶宅。人们都说是报应,是莫尔的冤魂在报复。一百五十年后,七角楼内的平钦家族成员赫普兹波小姐在家里开了一个小杂货店,挣钱糊口。把一侧厢房租赁给一个名叫霍尔格雷夫的年轻照相师居住。平钦小姐的年轻堂妹菲比从乡下来探望她,给死气沉沉的七角楼带来了朝气。赫普兹波的哥哥克利福德从监狱出来,也住进了七角楼。平钦家族的一位富有成员平钦法官,企图从克利福德口中探听他祖先那份财产证书的存放地点,不料也暴死在七角楼。平钦一家三口继承了法官的遗产。这时霍尔格雷夫也宣布自己是莫尔家族的后代。他与菲比真诚相爱,缔结良缘,从此平钦与莫尔两户便合为一家了。自然莫尔对平钦的诅咒也随之结束了。

故事说明前代人的罪孽必然会延续到后代,世仇的死结惟有“爱”才解得开。

霍桑虽未能深刻地理解和反映自己时代的现实社会矛盾,但在当时的条件下,他用“恶”的观念确实也打破了老一代作家笔下关于殖民时期社会田园牧歌式理想化的图画,深刻地揭示了加尔文教统治下殖民时期的阴暗面。霍桑的创作通过揭露清教徒的宗教伪善也暗示了自己时代的精神危机——到处泛滥的金钱拜物教、人欲横流、旧道德观念的不适用和新道德观念的虚伪性。正因为他提出了自己时代精神领域里的重大问题,其作品在出版后引起很大反响,本人被公认为当代美国最重要的小说家。

译者

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I. The Old Pyncheon Family

HALFWAY down a by-street of one of our New England towns stands a rusty wooden house, with seven acutely peaked gables, facing towards various points of the compass, and a huge, clustered chimney in the midst. The street is Pyncheon Street; the house is the old Pyncheon House; and an elm-tree, of wide circumference, rooted before the door, is familiar to every town-born child by the title of the Pyncheon Elm. On my occasional visits to the town aforesaid, I seldom failed to turn down Pyncheon Street, for the sake of passing through the shadow of these two antiquities, —the great elm-tree and the weather-beaten edifice.

The aspect of the venerable mansion has always affected me like a human countenance, bearing the traces not merely of outward storm and sunshine, but expressive also, of the long lapse of mortal life, and accompanying vicissitudes that have passed within. Were these to be worthily recounted, they would form a narrative of no small interest and instruction, and possessing, moreover, a certain remarkable unity, which might almost seem the result of artistic arrangement. But the story would include a chain of events extending over the better part of two centuries, and, written out with reasonable amplitude, would fill a bigger folio volume, or a longer series of duodecimos, than could prudently be appropriated to the annals of all New England during a similar period. It consequently becomes imperative to make short work with most of

第一章 古老的平钦家族

在我们新英格兰一个城市的一条小街中段,矗立着一座破旧的木楼。楼顶上有面向不同方位的七个高高耸立的尖角,簇拥着一根高大的烟囱。街是平钦街;宅子是平钦家族的老宅子;一棵树冠硕大的榆树扎根在它的门前,都管它叫平钦老榆树,本市出生的孩子个个都熟悉。在我偶尔造访上述这个城市的时候,很少不转到平钦街,在大榆树和饱经风雨的大厦这两个古董的阴影里溜达一番。

这座庄严宅邸的外观总像人的容貌一样对我产生影响,那上面不仅是外部日晒雨淋的痕迹,也仿佛体现了一个漫长生命的一世沧桑,同时这副外观还显示着楼房内部经历过的一系列盛衰变迁。这些往事若经妙手叙述,准会成为饶有趣味的喻世之作,其中还自有一种显著的统一性贯穿始终,仿佛出自艺术家的安排。但是这个故事将包括延续了近二百年之久的种种事件,加上合理的充实丰富,势必写成一部巨著或数卷文字,甚至超过同时期整个新英格兰的编年史,因而只能是把以平钦家的老宅子或曰七角楼为主题的老故事中大部分内容做一个删繁就简的处理。因此,首先简略描写这座房子奠基时的情况,然后浏览一下它那

the traditionary lore of which the old Pyncheon House, otherwise known as the House of the Seven Gables, has been the theme. With a brief sketch, therefore, of the circumstances amid which the foundation of the house was laid, and a rapid glimpse at its quaint exterior, as it grew black in the prevalent east wind,—pointing, too, here and there, at some spot of more verdant mossiness on its roof and walls,—we shall commence the real action of our tale at an epoch not very remote from the present day. Still, there will be a connection with the long past—a reference to forgotten events and personages, and to manners, feelings, and opinions, almost or wholly obsolete—which, if adequately translated to the reader, would serve to illustrate how much of old material goes to make up the freshest novelty of human life. Hence, too, might be drawn a weighty lesson from the little-regarded truth, that the act of the passing generation is the germ which may and must produce good or evil fruit in a far-distant time; that, together with the seed of the merely temporary crop, which mortals term expediency, they inevitably sow the acorns of a more enduring growth, which may darkly overshadow their posterity.

The House of the Seven Gables, antique as it now looks, was not the first habitation erected by civilized man on precisely the same spot of ground. Pyncheon Street formerly bore the humbler appellation of Maule's Lane, from the name of the original occupant of the soil, before whose cottage-door it was a cow-path. A natural spring of soft and pleasant water—a rare treasure on the sea-girt peninsula where the Puritan settlement was made—

希奇古怪的外表,它在徐徐而来的东风中已经变得黝黑了,再不时指指点点它顶部和墙上那斑斑青苔——我们从一个离现今不甚遥远的时代开始讲述我们故事的真实情节。但是,仍然应和遥远的过去联系在一起——关于一些早已遗忘了的事件与人物,风俗与人情,以及部分或全部都过时的舆论——如果向读者作充分的解释,它将足以说明古时的材料会在多大程度上使人类生活增添鲜艳新奇的色彩。因此它也会从鲜为人知的真相中吸伞极为重要的教训,即是此辈人的行为可能或者必定在遥远的未来产生出善良抑或罪恶的果实;他们如人们所言为贪一时之私利任意播种,即时收获,与此同时却播下了生长更久的种子,阴森森地笼罩着他们的后代子孙。

七角楼的形状虽已十分古老,但它并不是文明人在这同一个位置上建起来的第一座住宅。从前平钦街的名称远不如现在气派,那时叫做莫尔巷,是以这块地皮原主人的名字命名的。在他的农舍门前曾是一条牛走的小径。最初是一股清醇怡人的天然泉水——在这个清教徒辟为居住地的环海半岛上这是一份难得的财宝——尽

had early induced Matthew Maule to build a hut, shaggy with thatch, at this point, although somewhat too remote from what was then the centre of the village. In the growth of the town, however, after some thirty or forty years, the site covered by this rude hovel had become exceedingly desirable in the eyes of a prominent and powerful personage, who asserted plausible claims to the proprietorship of this and a large adjacent tract of land, on the strength of a grant from the legislature. Colonel Pyncheon, the claimant, as we gather from whatever traits of him are preserved, was characterized by an iron energy of purpose. Matthew Maule, on the other hand, though an obscure man, was stubborn in the defence of what he considered his right; and, for several years, he succeeded in protecting the acre or two of earth which, with his own toil, he had hewn out of the primeval forest, to be his garden ground and homestead. No written record of this dispute is known to be in existence. Our acquaintance with the whole subject is derived chiefly from tradition. It would be bold, therefore, and possibly unjust, to venture a decisive opinion as to its merits; although it appears to have been at least a matter of doubt, whether Colonel Pyncheon's claim were not unduly stretched, in order to make it cover the small metes and bounds of Matthew Maule. What greatly strengthens such a suspicion is the fact that this controversy between two ill-matched antagonists—at a period, moreover, laud it as we may, when personal influence had far more weight than now—remained for years undecided, and came to a close only with the death of the party occupying the disputed soil. The mode of

管当时它离村庄中心地带十分偏远,还是诱使马修·莫尔最早在这里建造了一所房子,一座简陋的茅屋。但是,在这个村镇的发展过程中,这座简陋的茅屋在三四十年的以后,便成了一个有权势有地位的人梦寐以求的东西,他仰仗立法机关的努力,貌似理直气壮地依据立法机关的授权宣称这块地皮及其与之毗连的一大片土地的所有权都属于他。从我们现有的关于他性格特征的材料来看,平钦上校,这个提出这项要求者,是以一意孤行而闻名的人物。另一方面,虽然马修·莫尔是个无名小辈,但是他只要认定是自己的权利,就能挺身捍卫,不屈不挠;他连续几年成功地保护了自己的一两英亩土地,因为那是他亲手劳作从原始森林里砍伐出来的一片空地,是他自己的家园。关于这起纠纷迄今未见任何书面记载。我们对整件事情来龙去脉的了解主要来自传说,所以不能对这一事件的是非曲直妄加评论,否则会有轻率甚至不公正之嫌;不过这里面似乎仍有一个疑点,那就是平钦上校对马修·莫尔那一小块土地提出的所有权要求是否有些过分。更令人怀疑的是,发生在实力悬殊的这两个对手之间的这场争斗——而且一个时期,当个人权势比现在更受重视的时候,我们还称颂过这种事——多年来都无定论。只有占据这片颇有争议的土地的当事人死后,才算了结。在我们今天,他那种死法对人的思想影响跟一个半世纪以前也是大不相同的。他的死以一种奇

his death, too, affects the mind differently, in our day, from what it did a century and a half ago. It was a death that blasted with strange horror the humble name of the dweller in the cottage, and made it seem almost a religious act to drive the plough over the little area of his habitation, and obliterate his place and memory from among men.

Old Matthew Maule, in a word, was executed for the crime of witchcraft. He was one of the martyrs to that terrible delusion, which should teach us, among its other morals, that the influential classes, and those who take upon themselves to be leaders of the people, are fully liable to all the passionate error that has ever characterized the maddest mob. Clergymen, judges, statesmen,—the wisest, calmest, holiest persons of their day stood in the inner circle round about the gallows, loudest to applaud the work of blood, latest to confess themselves miserably deceived. If any one part of their proceedings can be said to deserve less blame than another, it was the singular indiscrimination with which they persecuted, not merely the poor and aged, as in former judicial massacres, but people of all ranks; their own equals, brethren, and wives. Amid the disorder of such various ruin, it is not strange that a man of inconsiderable note, like Maule, should have trodden the martyr's path to the hill of execution almost unremarked in the throng of his fellow sufferers. But, in after days, when the frenzy of that hideous epoch had subsided, it was remembered how loudly Colonel Pyncheon had joined in the general cry, to purge the land from witchcraft; nor did it fail to be whispered, that there was an invidious acrimony in

异的恐怖使茅屋主人声名狼藉,使他那一小片宅地被整整耕过一遍,使他的住所及其有关的事件都从人们心目中消失了,简直像是一种宗教活动。

简言之,老马修·莫尔是以巫术罪被处死刑的。他是当时那种谬见的牺牲者之一。我们应从这种可怕的谬见中吸取教训,别的不说,首先应该明白,权贵阶层以及那些自以为是人民领袖的人其实十分容易受感情的驱使而陷入荒谬,在这方面与最疯狂的暴民并无二致。牧师、法官、政界要人——那个时代最聪明,最稳重,最神圣的人物总是站在绞架周围靠里面的一圈,他们赞美血淋淋的场面时声音最高,不得已才勉强承认自己不幸受了欺骗。如果说他们这些行径尚有可以少受谴责之处的话,那就是他们的迫害并不因人而异,不仅像从前宗教裁判所的大屠杀那样迫害穷人老人,而且迫害各个阶层的人;包括他们的同僚、弟兄和妻子。在这种破坏活动的混乱中,像莫尔这样一个小人物,随着一同受害的人群踏着受难者的足迹默默走向刑台,是丝毫不奇怪的。但是后来,当这个可憎的时代的狂乱平静下来的时候,人们仍然记着,在肃清当地的巫师的运动中平钦上校的呼声有多高;人们也没有停止议论,在迫害马修·莫尔的时候,他是多么丧心病狂地热衷罗织马修·莫尔的罪名。众所周知,

the zeal with which he had sought the condemnation of Matthew Maule. It was well known that the victim had recognized the bitterness of personal enmity in his persecutor's conduct towards him, and that he declared himself hunted to death for his spoil. At the moment of execution—with the halter about his neck, and while Colonel Pyncheon sat on horseback, grimly gazing at the scene Maule had addressed him from the scaffold, and uttered a prophecy, of which history, as well as fireside tradition, has preserved the very words. "God," said the dying man, pointing his finger, with a ghastly look, at the undismayed countenance of his enemy,—"God will give him blood to drink!" After the reputed wizard's death, his humble homestead had fallen an easy spoil into Colonel Pyncheon's grasp. When it was understood, however, that the Colonel intended to erect a family mansion-spacious, ponderously framed of oak-en timber, and calculated to endure for many generations of his posterity over the spot first covered by the log-built hut of Matthew Maule, there was much shaking of the head among the village gossips. Without absolutely expressing a doubt whether the stalwart Puritan had acted as a man of conscience and integrity throughout the proceedings which have been sketched, they, nevertheless, hinted that he was about to build his house over an unquiet grave. His home would include the home of the dead and buried wizard, and would thus afford the ghost of the latter a kind of privilege to haunt its new apartments, and the chambers into which future bridegrooms were to lead their brides, and where children of the Pyncheon blood were to be

这个受害者已经认识到迫害者在对待他的言行中充满了个人憎恶,所以他公开表明他是被那片宅地逼上了死路。他临刑时——绞索已经套在他的脖子上,平钦上校正骑在马背上,冷酷地注视着现场,莫尔从绞台上对他说话,向他发出了预言,史书和家庭传闻都一字不漏地保存下来的预言。“上帝,”这个将死之人脸色惨白,用手指着那个面无惧色的仇敌说,——“上帝会给他血喝的!”这位所谓的巫师被处死后,他那一小块宅院便轻易地落入平钦上校的手中。接着,人们了解到上校打算在原先马修·莫尔的圆木框架茅屋地基上建造一座公馆,一座高大宽敞、厚实的橡木结构楼房,好让子孙后代永远享用,于是村民谈起来,都无不为之摇头。他们虽未对这位坚定的清教徒在上述过程中的行为是否有良知表示绝对怀疑,然而他们免不了暗示,上校是要把他的房子建在一座不平静的坟墓之上。他的家将覆盖那位长眠地下的巫师的家,所以就给了死者的鬼魂一个机会,可以出没于这座新居的各个居室,而这里却是将来新郎迎娶新娘的洞房,是平钦家的后代儿孙出生之地,莫尔罪行的恐怖与丑恶和他所受惩罚的悲惨会使新粉刷的墙壁黯然失色,使它早早熏染上古老阴森房屋的气味。那么,为什么——在他周围大片土地遍布原始森林的树叶的时候——为什么平钦上校偏偏选中了这块已遭诅咒的地基呢?

born. The terror and ugliness of Maule's crime, and the wretchedness of his punishment, would darken the freshly plastered walls, and infect them early with the scent of an old and melancholy house. Why, then, — while so much of the soil around him was bestrewn with the virgin forest leaves, — why should Colonel Pyncheon prefer a site that had already been accursed?

But the Puritan soldier and magistrate was not a man to be turned aside from his well-considered scheme, either by dread of the wizard's ghost, or by flimsy sentimentalities of any kind, however specious. Had he been told of a bad air, it might have moved him somewhat; but he was ready to encounter an evil spirit on his own ground. Endowed with commonsense, as massive and hard as blocks of granite, fastened together by stern rigidity of purpose, as with iron clamps, he followed out his original design, probably without so much as imagining an objection to it. On the score of delicacy, or any scrupulousness which a finer sensibility might have taught him, the Colonel, like most of his breed and generation, was impenetrable. He therefore dug his cellar, and laid the deep foundations of his mansion, on the square of earth whence Matthew Maule, forty years before, had first swept away the fallen leaves. It was a curious, and, as some people thought, an ominous fact, that, very soon after the workmen began their operations, the spring of water, above mentioned, entirely lost the deliciousness of its pristine quality. Whether its sources were disturbed by the depth of the new cellar, or whatever subtler cause might lurk at the bottom, it is certain that the water

但是这个笃信清教的军人和法官不是一个轻易改变自己深思熟虑的计划的人,无论是在巫师鬼魂的恐吓下,或者在任何一种温情的感召下,不管是真是假他都不会改变他个人的计划。如果他听说过某些丑恶的传言,也许会有几分收敛;但是他已经准备在自家庭院中,以一个军人的气魄迎战邪恶的幽灵。他学识渊博,根基深厚,坚若磐石,而他坚定不移的目标有如铁钳一般把他所具有的常识牢牢拧在一起。于是他依照自己原来的计划行事,大概连想也没有去想什么不利的一面。在做事的精细上,或者说在高度的敏感教给他的一丝不苟方面,上校与他那一代多数出身相同的人一样,是无法窥测的。他在马修·莫尔于四十年前首次扫除落叶的那一方土地上开挖地窖,为自己的楼房打下了一个深深的基础。说来奇怪,就在工人开工不久,前面提到的那股泉水便全然丧失了它原先纯净水质的芳香,也正如某些人所说的那样,这是一个凶兆。它的泉眼是被深挖的新地窖破坏了呢,还是有什么更微妙的渊源潜伏在它的根基中呢?但有一点是不容置疑的,人们依旧称

of Maule's Well, as it continued to be called, grew hard and brackish. Even such we find it now; and any old woman of the neighborhood will certify that it is productive of intestinal mischief to those who quench their thirst there.

The reader may deem it singular that the head carpenter of the new edifice was no other than the son of the very man from whose dead gripe the property of the soil had been wrested. Not improbably he was the best workman of his time; or, perhaps, the Colonel thought it expedient, or was impelled by some better feeling, thus openly to cast aside all animosity against the race of his fallen antagonist. Nor was it out of keeping with the general coarseness and matter-of-fact character of the age, that the son should be willing to earn an honest penny, or, rather, a weighty amount of sterling pounds, from the purse of his father's deadly enemy. At all events, Thomas Maule became the architect of the House of the Seven Gables, and performed his duty so faithfully that the timber framework fastened by his hands still holds together.

Thus the great house was built. Familiar as it stands in the writer's recollection, — for it has been an object of curiosity with him from boyhood, both as a specimen of the best and stateliest architecture of a longpast epoch, and as the scene of events more full of human interest, perhaps, than those of a gray feudal castle, — familiar as it stands, in its rusty old age, it is therefore only the more difficult to imagine the bright novelty with which it first caught the sunshine. The impression of its actual state, at this distance of a hundred and sixty years, darkens inevitably through the

做“莫尔泉”的水变得又苦又咸了。直到今天,它还是这个样子;街坊上的老太婆都会证明,凡来这里喝过水的人没有一个不闹肠胃病的。

读者大概又要感到惊讶,负责大厦建筑的木匠头儿居然不是别人,而正是被夺走这块土地所有权的那位死者的儿子。毫无疑问,他是当时最出色的工匠;也许上校认为这是一种权宜之计,不然就是被某种良知所驱使,这样也就公开消解了与已然殒命的对手后代之间的所有怨恨。至于这位儿子甘愿从他父亲的死敌钱袋里赚几个老实钱或赚取一大笔钱,这也与那个时代世风粗陋和讲求实惠的特点并不相悖。总而言之,托马斯·莫尔担任了七角楼的建筑师,他忠心耿耿地履行自己的职责,以至于经他亲手安装的房梁屋架至今仍屹立不坠。

大厦就这样建成了。虽然它是作者记忆中熟悉的事物——因为它作为历史悠久而最为富丽堂皇的建筑范例,和它作为比那些灰暗的封建城堡更引人注目的社会事件的场所,曾经是他童年时代最感兴趣的东西——虽然它在垂暮之年还是众所周知的事物,但要想象它初见阳光时那欢快新奇的情境依旧困难重重。那个清教徒权贵在宣布全镇人士为他家贵宾的那天早晨,我们对大厦的外貌欣然做了描绘;在漫长的一百六十年之

picture which we would fain give of its appearance on the morning when the Puritan magnate bade all the town to be his guests. A ceremony of consecration, festive as well as religious, was now to be performed. A prayer and discourse from the Rev. Mr. Higginson, and the outpouring of a psalm from the general throat of the community, was to be made acceptable to the grosser sense by ale, cider, wine, and brandy, in copious effusion, and, as some authorities aver, by an ox, roasted whole, or at least, by the weight and substance of an ox, in more manageable joints and sirloins. The carcass of a deer, shot within twenty miles, had supplied material for the vast circumference of a pasty. A codfish of sixty pounds, caught in the bay, had been dissolved into the rich liquid of a chowder. The chimney of the new house, in short, belching forth its kitchen smoke, impregnated the whole air with the scent of meats, fowls, and fishes, spicily concocted with odoriferous herbs, and onions in abundance. The mere smell of such festivity, making its way to everybody's nostrils, was at once an invitation and an appetite.

Maule's Lane, or Pyncheon Street, as it were now more decorous to call it, was thronged, at the appointed hour, as with a congregation on its way to church. All, as they approached, looked upward at the imposing edifice, which was henceforth to assume its rank among the habitations of mankind. There it rose, a little withdrawn from the line of the street, but in pride, not modesty. Its whole visible exterior was ornamented with quaint figures, conceived in the grotesqueness of a Gothic fancy, and drawn or stamped in

后,通过这个画面,它当时的情况所给人的印象已是黯然失色了。节日典礼和宗教祭祀马上就要开始。大家首先要聆听尊敬的希金森先生祈祷和讲道,接着要同声齐唱赞美诗,感官粗糙的人们所以会接受这套开场白,是因为随后就要开怀畅饮大量的啤酒、苹果酒、葡萄酒和白兰地酒,另据权威人士说,还有一头烤全牛,或者至少是可与一头整牛等量齐观而又更易下咽的牛腿肉和里脊肉。从二十英里外猎获的一头肥鹿用来做了一只巨大的圆馅饼。在海湾捕到的一条六十磅重的鳕鱼被剁碎做了一个大杂烩的肥美汤料。总之,喷吐着阵阵炊烟的新房上的烟囱使空中弥漫着拌有大量药草和洋葱的鸡鸭鱼肉的浓香。庆典上的这种气味钻入了人们的鼻孔,立即使大家垂涎欲滴,胃口大开。

在约定的钟点内,如人们去教堂做礼拜时路上的情形那样,莫尔巷,它现在更高雅地叫做平钦街,拥挤不堪。在大家走近这座宏伟建筑的时候,无不翘首仰望——它今后在人类生活史上将占有明显地位。大厦拔地而起,虽然位于离主干道一边稍远的地方,但它傲然屹立,毫不逊色。大厦的整个可见部分,装饰着哥特式图案,奇妙而怪异,是绘在木板墙壁上覆盖着的那层用石灰、小石子、碎玻璃调和

the glittering plaster, composed of lime, pebbles, and bits of glass, with which the wood-work of the walls was overspread. On every side the seven gables pointed sharply towards the sky, and presented the aspect of a whole sisterhood of edifices, breathing through the spiracles of one great chimney. The many lattices, with their small, diamond-shaped panes, admitted the sunlight into hall and chamber, while, nevertheless, the second story, projecting far over the base, and itself retiring beneath the third, threw a shadowy and thoughtful gloom into the lower rooms. Carved globes of wood were affixed under the jutting stories. Little spiral rods of iron beautified each of the seven peaks. On the triangular portion of the gable, that fronted next the street, was a dial, put up that very morning, and on which the sun was still marking the passage of the first bright hour in a history that was not destined to be all so bright. All around were scattered shavings, chips, shingles, and broken halves of bricks; these, together with the lately turned earth, on which the grass had not begun to grow, contributed to the impression of strangeness and novelty proper to a house that had yet its place to make among men's daily interests.

The principal entrance, which had almost the breadth of a church-door, was in the angle between the two front gables, and was covered by an open porch, with benches beneath its shelter. Under this arched doorway, scraping their feet on the unworn threshold, now trod the clergymen, the elders, the magistrates, the deacons, and whatever of aristocracy there was in town or county. Thither, too, thronged the plebeian classes as freely as

成的光亮的灰泥上的,或者说是印在上面的。七个尖角阁从屋顶的每一面利刃般高高耸入天空,看上去仿佛是数座互相连接的姊妹大厦,全都通过一个巨大烟囱的各个孔道,吐气排烟。那无数窗格子上都镶嵌着菱形的小块玻璃,可使阳光射进大厅和卧室;然而,二楼比底层突出许多,在三楼下面又缩进一些,这就给底下的房间里投下了阴影,形成一种郁闷气氛,免不了让人若有所思。突出的楼檐下面镶有许多球形木雕。楼顶上饰有一些螺旋形小铁棒,使七个尖角阁显得格外好看。临街的第二个尖角阁的三角形装置是一个日晷,是那天早晨刚刚安装上去的,太阳仍然在它的表面上记录着历史上并非都是这么光明的天亮第一个时辰的轨迹。周围到处都散布着刨花、木屑、木瓦和碎砖;这一切与新翻过的还未长草的土地,共同形成了日益引人注目的房屋所特有的一种怪异而新奇的印象。

楼房的正门差不多有教堂的门那么宽大,处在正面的两个尖角阁垂直线之间,门外有个开放式的门廊,两侧扶手处各是一条长凳。此刻,在这拱廊下面,那些牧师、长老、地方官、执事、以及镇上和县里的所有贵族,正纷纷举步踏上崭新的门槛。大批庶民百姓也都像那些权贵一样,自由自在地由此蜂拥而入。但是一进门,立在门两侧的