

新经典阅读

中英文对照

永世不衰的经典收藏

# 小贵族

*Little Lord Fauntleroy*

(美) 伯内特/著 Burnett.F.H.  
麻保金/译



中国工人出版社

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导  
读

《小贵族》是美国著名作家弗朗西丝·霍奇森·伯内特的巨著，曾被改编为剧本，小说与剧本都获得了极大成功。

主人公塞德里克出生在美国纽约，父亲是英国一位地位显赫的贵族。老伯爵有三个儿子，长子和次子只知吃喝玩乐、不求上进，让老伯爵非常失望。三儿子埃罗尔上尉不仅人长得漂亮，而且品德、才华都十分出众。可是，按当时英国的法规，他不可能成为伯爵和巨额财产的继承人。他随美国旅行时，爱上了一位美国的普通女孩，并和她结了婚。伯爵不同意这门婚事，对此感到非常愤怒，并在愤怒之下，和他断绝了父子关系。塞德里克是埃罗尔夫妇惟一的儿子。他从小就生活在温馨、充满爱意的家庭之中。父母间真挚的爱情以及对他的细心照顾对他影响很深，因此，他从小就知道要体贴他人和善待他人，又因为他聪明好学、彬彬有礼，所以很讨人喜欢。

父亲不幸去世后，他和母亲相依为命，变得更加懂事了。此时，老伯爵的长子和次子未留下继承人也先后去世了。连丧三子，使得老伯爵悲痛欲绝，加上年迈多病，因而性格孤僻，心情极其不好，是当地有名的“暴君”。为了不让家产和爵位落入他人之手，老伯爵派人把住在纽约巷中七岁的孙子——塞德里克及其母亲接到了英国。可他只让孙子住在城堡里，而让他的母亲住在城堡外的一间小房子里。纯真、漂亮、善良、慷慨、极有教养的塞德里克令孤独、烦闷、暴躁的老伯爵非常吃惊，与他想像中

Little Lord Fauntleroy

小贵族

的愚昧无知、鲁莽冒失的形象大为不同,二人很快就成了亲密好友。顽固、自私、残忍、郁闷的老伯爵在塞德里克的影响下,逐渐变得有爱心了,并从中得到了快乐,昔日死气沉沉的庄园里又开始充满了幸福、快乐、祥和的气氛。

本书故事情节曲折感人,人物性格各具特色,心理变化描写细致。

作品突出了这样一个主题:生活中虽然交织着真善美和假恶丑,但真善美终究能够战胜假丑恶。全书还极富喜剧色彩,使人获得由忧喜参半到皆大欢喜的情绪体验,在轻松愉快的气氛中,得到真善美的熏陶和心灵的净化。相信该书会受到广大读者的喜爱。

译者



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Cedric himself knew nothing whatever about it. It had never been even mentioned to him. He knew that his papa had been an Englishman, because his mamma had told him so; but then his papa had died when he was so little a boy that he could not remember very much about him, except that he was big, and had blue eyes and a long mustache, and that it was a splendid thing to be carried around the room on his shoulder. Since his papa's death, Cedric had found out that it was best not to talk to his mamma about him. When his father was ill, Cedric had been sent away, and when he had returned, everything was over; and his mother, who had been very ill, too, was only just beginning to sit in her chair by the window. She was pale and thin, and all the dimples had gone from her pretty face, and her eyes looked large and mournful, and she was dressed in black.

"Dearest," said Cedric (his papa had called her that always, and so the little boy had learned to say it), -- "dearest, is my papa better?"

He felt her arms tremble, and so he turned his curly head and looked in her face. There was something in it that made him feel that she was going to cry.

"Dearest," he said, "is he well?"

Then suddenly his loving little heart told him that he'd better put both his arms around her neck and kiss her again and again, and keep his soft cheek close to hers; and he did so, and she laid her face on his shoulder and cried bitterly, holding him as if she could never let him go again.

"Yes, he is well," she sobbed; "he is quite, quite well, but we -- we have no one left but each other. No one at all."

Then, little as he was, he understood that his big, handsome young papa would not come back any more; that he was dead, as he had heard of other people being, although he could not comprehend exactly what strange thing had brought all this sadness about. It was because his mamma always cried when he spoke of his papa that he secretly made up his mind it was better not to speak of him very often to her, and he found out, too, that it was better not to let her sit still and look into the fire or out of the window without moving or talking. He and his mamma knew very few people, and lived what might have been thought



## 第一章

对于此事,塞德里克全然不知。他从未听别人提起过此事。他只听妈妈说过,爸爸是一个英国人。可是,在他很小的时候,爸爸就去世了,因此,有关爸爸的事他知道得很少,他只知道爸爸很高大,有一双蓝眼睛,胡子很长,被他架在肩膀上满屋子来回跑是件很高兴的事。爸爸去世之后,塞德里克就感到在妈妈面前最好不要提起爸爸。在父亲病重时,塞德里克被送到了远方,等一切事情办好之后才把他给接了回来。而此时他母亲的病也很重,只能坐在临窗的椅子上坐下。她非常瘦,脸色苍白,所有的酒窝都从美丽的脸上消失了,大大的眼睛里充满了忧伤,她身穿孝服。

塞德里克说:“最亲爱的(他父亲常常这样叫她,所以,这个小男孩也慢慢这样说了),最亲爱的,我父亲好点了吗?”

他感到她的胳膊在发抖,他扭过满头卷发的头来,看着她的脸。他觉得她好像是一副要哭的样子。

他说:“最亲爱的,他好了吗?”

当时,他幼小的心灵对他说:为了表示自己的爱心,最好是抱着她的脖子,不停地吻她,把自己柔嫩的小脸紧贴在她的脸上。他按自己所想的做了,她的脸靠在他的肩膀上,伤心地哭着,她抱着他,好像是决不让他再次走开。

她呜咽着说道:“是的,他好了,他彻底、彻底复原了,然而,我们两个只能相依为命了。我们一个亲人也没了。”

虽然他当时还小,可他知道他高大、潇洒、年轻的父亲不可能再回来了。他曾听别人说过死人,因此,他知道父亲死了,可他并不能真正明白这种悲伤是由什么古怪的事情引起的。看到母亲听到自己提起父亲时就会哭,他心中暗想,在她面前还是不提父亲为好,同时,他感觉到她静静地坐在那里,看着火苗或望着窗外出神,一动



very lonely lives, although Cedric did not know it was lonely until he grew older and heard why it was they had no visitors. Then he was told that his mamma was an orphan, and quite alone in the world when his papa had married her. She was very pretty, and had been living as companion to a rich old lady who was not kind to her, and one day Captain Cedric Errol, who was calling at the house, saw her run up the stairs with tears on her eyelashes; and she looked so sweet and innocent and sorrowful that the Captain could not forget her. And after many strange things had happened, they knew each other well and loved each other dearly, and were married, although their marriage brought them the ill - will of several persons.

The one who was most angry of all, however, was the Captain's father, who lived in England, and was a very rich and important old nobleman, with a very bad temper and a very violent dislike to America and Americans. He had two sons older than Captain Cedric; and it was the law that the elder of these sons should inherit the family title and estates, which were very rich and splendid; if the eldest son died, the next one would be heir; so, though he was a member of such a great family, there was little chance that Captain Cedric would be very rich himself. But it so happened that Nature had given to the youngest son gifts which she had not bestowed upon his elder brothers. He had a beautiful face and a fine, strong, graceful figure; he had a bright smile and a sweet, gay voice; he was brave and generous, and had the kindest heart in the world, and seemed to have the power to make every one love him. And it was not so with his elder brothers; neither of them was handsome, or very kind, or clever. When they were boys at Eton, they were not popular; when they were at college, they cared nothing for study, and wasted both time and money, and made few real friends. The old Earl, their father, was constantly disappointed and humiliated by them; his heir was no honor to his noble name, and did not promise to end in being anything but a selfish, wasteful, insignificant man, with no manly or noble qualities. It was very bitter, the old Earl thought, that the son who was only third, and would have only a very small fortune, should be the one who had all the gifts, and all the charms, and all the strength and beauty. Sometimes he almost hated the handsome young man because he seemed to have the good things which should have gone with the stately title and the magnificent estates; and yet, in the depths of his proud, stubborn old heart, he could not help caring very much for his youngest son. It was in one of his fits of



不动，一句话不说，这样做对她并没有什么好处。他和母亲所认识的人很少，在外人看来，他们的生活是非常寂寞的，塞德里克直到懂事之后、明白他们为什么没有朋友的时候，才知道什么叫寂寞。有人告诉他说，他母亲原是一个孤儿，在嫁给父亲之前是非常寂寞的。她很美丽，在嫁人之前，她一直和一个对她很不好的富家太太作伴，上尉塞德里克·埃罗尔曾在某一天去她家拜访，他看到她跑到楼上时，眼睫毛上还沾着泪水。上尉见她十分可爱、浪漫、又有些忧伤，就再也忘不了她了。在发生了几件奇怪的事情之后，他们相识了，并建立了深厚的感情，于是，他们结婚了，可是，有好几个人反对他们的婚姻。

感到最生气的是住在英国的上尉的父亲，他特别有钱，是位身份尊贵的贵族，脾气非常暴躁，对美国 and 美国人特别反感。塞德里克上尉是他的三儿子。按照法律，父亲的爵位和丰厚的财产要由长子继承，若是长子死了，要由次子继承，所以，尽管塞德里克上尉也是这个大家族中的一员，可是，他自己是很难成为一个特别富有的人的。然而，上帝却赋予了这个小儿子特别高的天赋，而他的两个哥哥却没有。他的脸长得很好看，身形也非常匀称，而且十分健壮。他的笑容非常甜美，嗓音也十分动听，他勇敢、大方，是世间最仁慈的人，好像能够让所有见到他的人都喜欢上他。他的两个哥哥却不是这样：他们两个既不漂亮、仁慈，也不聪明。他们在伊顿上中学时，就不讨人喜爱。来到大学校园后，他们根本不用功学习，只知浪费时间和钱财，却没有交上几个知心朋友。他们的父亲老伯爵对他们两个感到非常失望，也为他们感到可耻。他的继承人有损他的贵族名誉，说到底他们不过是自私、奢侈、无关紧要的人，一点男子汉气概或贵族气概也没有。老伯爵痛心的是只能得到一小部分财产的小儿子却具有所有的天赋、魅力、力量和美丽。另外他还似乎拥有了与这高贵头衔和庞大财产相映生辉的所有优点，因此，有时，老伯爵有些恨这个漂亮的年轻人，可是，在老伯爵高傲、顽固的内心深处又忍不住十分喜爱自己的小儿子。他送他到美国旅行是在和自己闹气时做出的决定。他本来想着让他远离自己一段日子，他就不

petulance that he sent him off to travel in America; he thought he would send him away for a while, so that he should not be made angry by constantly contrasting him with his brothers, who were at that time giving him a great deal of trouble by their wild ways.

But, after about six months, he began to feel lonely, and longed in secret to see his son again, so he wrote to Captain Cedric and ordered him home. The letter he wrote crossed on its way a letter the Captain had just written to his father, telling of his love for the pretty American girl, and of his intended marriage; and when the Earl received that letter he was furiously angry. Bad as his temper was, he had never given way to it in his life as he gave way to it when he read the Captain's letter. His valet, who was in the room when it came, thought his lordship would have a fit of apoplexy, he was so wild with anger. For an hour he raged like a tiger, and then he sat down and wrote to his son, and ordered him never to come near his old home, nor to write to his father or brothers again. He told him he might live as he pleased, and die where he pleased, that he should be cut off from his family forever, and that he need never expect help from his father as long as he lived.

The Captain was very sad when he read the letter; he was very fond of England, and he dearly loved the beautiful home where he had been born; he had even loved his ill - tempered old father, and had sympathized with him in his disappointments; but he knew he need expect no kindness from him in the future. At first he scarcely knew what to do; he had not been brought up to work, and had no business experience, but he had courage and plenty of determination. So he sold his commission in the English army, and after some trouble found a situation in New York, and married. The change from his old life in England was very great, but he was young and happy, and he hoped that hard work would do great things for him in the future. He had a small house on a quiet street, and his little boy was born there, and everything was so gay and cheerful, in a simple way, that he was never sorry for a moment that he had married the rich old lady's pretty companion just because she was so sweet and he loved her and she loved him. She was very sweet, indeed, and her little boy was like both her and his father. Though he was born in so quiet and cheap a little home, it seemed as if there never had been a more fortunate baby. In the first place, he was always well, and so he never gave any one trouble; in the second place, he had so sweet a temper and always so



会把他和他那自由散漫、常闹事惹他心烦的两个哥哥进行比较了，他也就不会为此而生气了。

然而，大约六个月之后，他有些寂寞，想再次见到儿子，因此，他给塞德里克上尉写了封信，命他回家。他写的信还在途中的时候，上尉刚好也给父亲写了一封信，告诉他说自己爱上了一位美丽的美国女孩，并决定和她结婚。老伯爵看到这封信后气得暴跳如雷。虽然他脾气暴躁，可读到上尉的信后，这是他一生中第一次发这么大的火。在房中侍奉他的仆人见主人发这么大脾气，以为他要中风呢。他像一只发怒的老虎一般折腾了一个小时后，坐下来给儿子写了封信，告诉他不许再靠近这个家一步，也不许再给父亲或哥哥写信。他在信中写道，他爱怎么过就怎么过，爱死在哪就死在哪，他要和他断绝父子关系，在有生之日决不会再帮助他。

上尉看到这封信后非常悲痛。他十分喜爱英国，对这个生他养他的、美丽的家乡有着深厚的感情。他深深地爱着易发怒的老父亲，看到他对自己如此地失望，他非常同情他，可是，他明白父亲是不会再疼爱他了。刚开始的时候，他几乎不知该做些什么，他没有参加过工作，也不懂得经商之道，可他有胆识，做事非常果断。最后，他把自己在英国军队中的官职给卖了，经过一些磨难之后，他在纽约找到了一份工作，并结了婚。他在这里的生活与他在英国的生活是截然不同的，可是，他还年轻，又很乐观，他相信艰苦的劳动对将来是非常有好处的。他的家座落在一条幽静的街道上，房子很小，他的小儿子就出生在这里，家境虽然不是太好，可处处洋溢着快乐的气氛，妻子虽说是一位有钱太太的伴女，可他从不后悔娶她，她非常可爱，他爱她，她也爱他。她真的非常可爱，他的小儿子长得既像她，又像他的父亲。尽管他是出生在一间非常幽静、简陋的小屋子里，可他似乎是世上最幸运的孩子。首先，他从不生病，别人不需为他的事烦心；其次，他性情温和，长得非常迷人，人见人爱；再者，他长得很帅，就像画中画得一般。与一般的孩子不同，他生下来头上就长满了金黄色的软发，发稍成自然卷曲形，到六个月时，卷曲的头发又松散成环形。他有一双棕色的大眼睛，长长的睫毛，一张漂



charming that he was a pleasure to every one; and in the third place, he was so beautiful to look at that he was quite a picture. Instead of being a bald-headed baby, he started in life with a quantity of soft, fine, gold-colored hair, which curled up at the ends, and went into loose rings by the time he was six months old; he had big brown eyes and long eyelashes and a darling little face; he had so strong a back and such splendid sturdy legs, that at nine months he learned suddenly to walk; his manners were so good, for a baby, that it was delightful to make his acquaintance. He seemed to feel that every one was his friend, and when any one spoke to him, when he was in his carriage in the street, he would give the stranger one sweet, serious look with the brown eyes, and then follow it with a lovely, friendly smile; and the consequence was, that there was not a person in the neighborhood of the quiet street where he lived—even to the groceryman at the corner, who was considered the crossiest creature alive—who was not pleased to see him and speak to him. And every month of his life he grew handsomer and more interesting.

When he was old enough to walk out with his nurse, dragging a small wagon and wearing a short white kilt skirt, and a big white hat set back on his curly yellow hair, he was so handsome and strong and rosy that he attracted every one's attention, and his nurse would come home and tell his mamma stories of the ladies who had stopped their carriages to look at and speak to him, and of how pleased they were when he talked to them in his cheerful little way, as if he had known them always. His greatest charm was this cheerful, fearless, quaint little way of making friends with people. I think it arose from his having a very confiding nature, and a kind little heart that sympathized with every one, and wished to make every one as comfortable as he liked to be himself. It made him very quick to understand the feelings of those about him. Perhaps this had grown on him, too, because he had lived so much with his father and mother, who were always loving and considerate and tender and well-bred. He had never heard an unkind or uncourteous word spoken at home; he had always been loved and caressed and treated tenderly, and so his childish soul was full of kindness and innocent warm feeling. He had always heard his mamma called by pretty, loving names, and so he used them himself when he spoke to her; he had always seen that his papa watched over her and took great care of her, and so he learned, too, to be careful of her.

So when he knew his papa would come back no more, and saw how



亮的小脸，他的后背非常强壮，腿十分有力，刚满九个月，他竟然就学会了走路，他从小就非常有礼貌，人人都喜欢和他做朋友。他觉得每个人都像是自己的朋友，当他坐在自己的小车上出现在大街上，有生人和他说话时，他都会用棕色的眼睛和蔼、认真地看着他，接着，他会和善、友好地向人家笑笑，结果，这条幽静的街道上，住在他家附近的居民看到他都很高兴，并乐意和他说话。他越长越美，越长越可爱。

当他长到可以和保姆出去玩时，他总是拖着一辆儿童车，身上穿着一件白色的苏格蘭短裙，头上戴着一顶白色的大帽子，正好可以盖住黄色的卷发，他的漂亮、健壮、玫瑰红色的皮肤引起了每个人的注意，他的保姆回去之后，常常告诉他的母亲说，许多坐车的女士会停车看着他，并和他说话，当他用自己快乐的孩子口吻和他们说话时，就好像他和人家是老相识似的，他们为此都感到很高兴。他最迷人的地方是他能用快乐、勇敢、奇怪的孩子方式和人交朋友。我认为他之所以会这样做，是因为他天生就容易相信他人，心地善良，对所有的人都有一颗同情心，他想让每个人都像他那样过得舒舒服服的。因此，他很容易就能理解周围人的感情。可能这和他的生长环境也有关系。他一直都和父母生活在一起，而父母都是非常有爱心的人，他们常常为他人着想，待人和善，非常有涵养。他从没有听他们说过不礼貌或粗鲁的言语。父母从小就非常宠爱他，并对他非常体贴，所以，他幼小的心里就充满了仁慈和温暖的亲情。他听爸爸总是用心爱的、美人之类的名字叫妈妈，因此，当他和她说话时，他也常常这样叫她。他看到爸爸对妈妈总是很关心、很照顾，慢慢地，他也学会了照顾她。

因此，当他知道父亲不可能再回来了，看到母亲是那么地忧伤时，他仁慈、幼小的心里就在想，他一定要让她快乐起来。他还只是一个孩子，可是，这种想法使他经常爬到她的膝盖上吻她，把满是卷发的头靠在她的脖子上，让她看他的玩具和画册，她习惯于躺在沙发上，每当此时，他总是默不作声地蜷缩在她的旁边。他只是一个孩子，不晓得自己还能做些什么，因此，他总是尽自己所能地做一些



very sad his mamma was, there gradually came into his kind little heart the thought that he must do what he could to make her happy. He was not much more than a baby, but that thought was in his mind whenever he climbed upon her knee and kissed her and put his curly head on her neck, and when he brought his toys and picture-books to show her, and when he curled up quietly by her side as she used to lie on the sofa. He was not old enough to know of anything else to do, so he did what he could, and was more of a comfort to her than he could have understood.

"Oh, Mary!" he heard her say once to her old servant; "I am sure he is trying to help me in his innocent way - I know he is. He looks at me sometimes with a loving, wondering little look, as if he were sorry for me, and then he will come and pet me or show me something. He is such a little man, I really think he knows."

As he grew older, he had a great many quaint little ways which amused and interested people greatly. He was so much of a companion for his mother that she scarcely cared for any other. They used to walk together and talk together and play together. When he was quite a little fellow, he learned to read; and after that he used to lie on the hearth-rug, in the evening, and read aloud - sometimes stories, and sometimes big books such as older people read, and sometimes even the newspaper; and often at such times Mary, in the kitchen, would hear Mrs. Errol laughing with delight at the quaint things he said.

"And, indade," said Mary to the groceryman, "nobody cud help laughin' at the quare little ways of him - and his ould - fashioned sayin's! Didn't he come into my kitchen the noight the new Prisident was nominated and shtand afore the fire, lookin' loike a pictur', wid his hands in his shmall pockets, an' his innocent bit of a face as sayrious as a jedge? An' sez he to me: 'Mary,' sez he, 'I'm very much int'rusted in the 'lection,' sez he. 'I'm a 'publican, an' so is Dearest. Are you a 'publican, Mary?' 'Sorra a bit,' sez I; 'I'm the bist o' dimmycrats!' An' he looks up at me wid a look that ud go to yer heart, an' sez he: 'Mary,' sez he, 'the country will go to ruin.' An' niver a day since thin has he let go by widout argyin' wid me to change me polytics."

Mary was very fond of him, and very proud of him, too. She had been with his mother ever since he was born; and, after his father's death, had been cook and housemaid and nurse and everything else. She was proud of his graceful, strong little body and his pretty manners,



事,可这些事使她得到的安慰是他所想象不到的。

有一次,他听母亲对她的老仆人说:“哦,玛丽!我敢断言,他这是想用他天真的方式来安慰我——我相信是这样的。有时,他会深情、好奇地看着我,好像他对不起我似的,于是,他就会过来亲我或给我看某些东西。他这个小鬼就是这样的,我想他是真的懂事了。”

随着年龄的增长,他有了更多的稀奇古怪的方式,可以让人们更加开心、快乐。他母亲有了他这样一个好伙伴,几乎想不到别人了。他们经常一块儿散步,一块儿聊天,一块儿玩耍。当他记事的时候,他学会了读书、写字。后来,每天晚上,他都要躺在壁炉前的地毯上大声朗读着——有时读故事,有时读大人们看的书,有时读报纸。每当此时,在厨房中忙碌的玛丽就会听到他所讲的离奇之事使埃罗尔夫人发出的开心的笑声。

玛丽对商店老板说:“说实在的,看到他那滑稽样,听到他所说的离奇的话,谁都忍不住想笑!新总统提名的当天晚上,他来到我的厨房,双手插在小口袋里,像幅画似的站在火炉前,天真的小脸上的表情认真的就像是一个法官。他对我说:‘玛丽,我对选举十分感兴趣,我是一个共和党人,最亲爱的也是。玛丽,你是一个共和党人吗?’我说:‘抱歉,我是一个忠实的民主党人!’他用仇人似的目光仰头看着我说道:‘玛丽,这个国家快要灭亡了。’从那天开始,他每天都要和我吵一架,为的是改变我的政治立场。”

玛丽十分喜爱他,也为他感到自豪。她从他出生时候起就陪伴在他母亲身边。他父亲死后,她就兼任厨师、仆人、保姆、杂工。他的漂亮、健壮、优雅的举止都让她感到骄傲,特别是他飘在额前和披在肩上的迷人的卷发,更是让她感到骄傲。她非常乐意从早忙到晚,帮助他母亲整理他的小衣服。

她总是说:“他非常有贵族气概,不是吗?他在第五大道上行走时,样子非常潇洒,费思和我都很爱看。当他穿着由夫人的旧长袍改制的天鹅绒黑色裙子时,无论是成年男女,还是孩子,都要盯着他看一会儿。他的小脸往上一仰,卷发一摆一摆地,那样子真有些小贵族气概。”



and especially proud of the bright curly hair which waved over his forehead and fell in charming love - locks on his shoulders. She was willing to work early and late to help his mamma make his small suits and keep them in order.

"Ristycratic, is it?" she would say. "Faith, and I'd loike to see the choild on Fifth Avey - noo as looks loike him an' shteps out as handsome as himself. An' ivvery man, woman, and choild lookin' after him in his bit of a black velvet skirt made out of the misthress's ould gown; an' his little head up, an' his curly hair flyin' an' shinin'. It's loike a young lord he looks."

Cedric did not know that he looked like a young lord; he did not know what a lord was. His greatest friend was the groceryman at the corner - the cross groceryman, who was never cross to him. His name was Mr. Hobbs, and Cedric admired and respected him very much. He thought him a very rich and powerful person, he had so many things in his store, - - prunes and figs and oranges and biscuits, - - and he had a horse and wagon. Cedric was fond of the milkman and the baker and the apple - woman, but he liked Mr. Hobbs best of all, and was on terms of such intimacy with him that he went to see him every day, and often sat with him quite a long time, discussing the topics of the hour. It was quite surprising how many things they found to talk about - the Fourth of July, for instance. When they began to talk about the Fourth of July there really seemed no end to it. Mr. Hobbs had a very bad opinion of "the British," and he told the whole story of the Revolution, relating very wonderful and patriotic stories about the villainy of the enemy and the bravery of the Revolutionary heroes, and he even generously repeated part of the Declaration of Independence. Cedric was so excited that his eyes shone and his cheeks were red and his curls were all rubbed and tumbled into a yellow mop. He could hardly wait to eat his dinner after he went home, he was so anxious to tell his mamma. It was, perhaps, Mr. Hobbs who gave him his first interest in politics. Mr. Hobbs was fond of reading the newspapers, and so Cedric heard a great deal about what was going on in Washington; and Mr. Hobbs would tell him whether the President was doing his duty or not. And once, when there was an election, he found it all quite grand, and probably but for Mr. Hobbs and Cedric the country might have been wrecked. Mr. Hobbs took him to see a great torchlight procession, and many of the men who carried torches remembered afterward a stout man who stood near a lamp - post and held on his shoulder a handsome little





塞德里克没有意识到自己有些小贵族气概,他还不知道一个贵族是什么样子。住在街道拐角的商店老板是他最好的朋友,他从没有冲他发过脾气。他的名字叫霍布斯先生,塞德里克对他十分钦佩和尊敬。他想他一定是一个非常有钱、有势力的人,他的商店里有梅脯、无花果、桔子、饼干等等好多东西,此外,他还有一匹马和一辆马车。塞德里克对送奶工、面包师、卖苹果的女商人也有好感,可是,他和霍布斯先生的关系最好,他们几乎是无话不谈,他天天都去找他,和他坐在一起聊天,一聊就是几个小时。奇怪的是他们总有很多事要谈,例如,有关“七月四日”的事。每当谈论起七月四日,他们就会没完没了地说个不停。霍布斯先生非常讨厌英国,他向他讲述了美国革命的全过程,并讲到了罪恶的敌人和勇敢的革命英雄感人的爱国故事,他甚至动情地背诵了《独立宣言》中的某一部分。塞德里克兴奋地两眼闪光,脸涨得通红,黄色的卷发被他搓得乱糟糟的。一回到家,不等吃晚饭,他就迫不及待地要把这些讲给母亲听。霍布斯先生可能是第一个让他对政治感兴趣的人。霍布斯先生对报纸非常感兴趣,所以,塞德里克对华盛顿正在发生的事情知道得很多。霍布斯先生将自己对总统是否尽到了责任的评价也告诉了他。当时,美国举行了一次竞选,他认为这件事是十分重要的,若不是霍布斯先生和塞德里克,这个国家可能就会灭亡。他由霍布斯先生领着去看一场盛况空前的火炬游行,许多高举火把的人事后回忆说,他们记得灯竿旁边站着一个人,他个子非常矮,肩上坐着一个在空中挥舞着帽子、大声喊叫的漂亮小孩。

选举结束没多长时间,也就是在塞德里克七八岁的时候,发生了一件使他的一生产生奇妙变化的古怪事情。说来也怪,这件事正好发生在他与霍布斯先生谈论有关英国和英国女王之事的那一天,霍布斯先生列举了几件自己对贵族阶级感到非常不满的事情,他特别憎恨的是伯爵和伯爵夫人。那是一个炎热的早上,塞德里克和伙伴们玩过打仗的游戏后,就来到店中休息,他看到霍布斯先生正在看一张登有宫廷庆祝图照片的《伦敦图片新闻报》,他看上去非常愤怒。

