

英汉对照读本



少年文库



英语散文经典

English Classic Essays

饶晓红 编译

北方妇女儿童出版社



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RURAL LIFE IN ENGLAND

Washington Owen

The stranger who would form a correct opinion of the English character must not confine^① his observations to the metropolis^②. He must go forth into the country; he must sojourn^③ in villages and hamlets^④; he must visit castles, villas, farm-houses, cottages; he must wander through parks and gardens; along hedges^⑤ and green lanes; he must loiter about country churches, attend wakes and fairs and other rural festivals, and cope with the people in all their

英国的农村生活

华盛顿·欧文

外国人对于英国民族特性，要想正确认识，其观察范围切不可限于大都市，他必须走进农村，在大村小庄住一段时间，古堡、别墅、田舍、茅屋他都应该去看一看；园林之胜，他应该去漫游一番；矮篱绿径，他应该去走走；乡村教堂，他必须曾经流连；市墟赛会，以及各种乡村庆祝盛典，他都应该前去参加。英国人的各种生活情形，各种习俗风尚以及喜怒哀乐，全都应该有所认识。

- ① confine *v.* 限制，监禁
② metropolis *n.* (商业活动等的)中心城市
③ sojourn *v.* 旅居，逗留
④ hamlet *n.* 小村庄，小部落
⑤ hedge *n.* 树篱，篱笆

conditions, and all their habits and humors.

In some countries the large cities absorb the wealth and fashion of the nation; they are the only fixed abodes^① of elegant^② and intelligent society and the country is inhabited almost entirely by boorish^③ peasantry^④. In England, on the contrary, the metropolis is a mere gathering place, or general rendezvous^⑤, of the polite classes, where they devote a small portion of the year to a hurry of gaiety and dissipation, and having indulged this kind of carnival. Return again to the apparently more congenial habits of rural life. The various orders of society are therefore diffused over the whole surface

在有些国家，大都市是一国的财富集中地，时髦风尚的观瞻中心，而乡村几乎全为愚夫愚妇所居，如要找骚人雅士，只有求诸通都大邑了。英国恰好相反。英国的都市只是上层社会偶然集合之地，一年之中只有一小段时间，他们在都市里匆匆忙忙的寻欢作乐一番，欢乐既毕，他们又回到乡村，去过怡然自得的乡居生活了。英国社会各阶层的人士，分布于全国各处，即使在穷乡僻壤，你也会见得着诸色人等的。

-
- ① abode *b.* 住宅，居所
② elegant *adj.* 优雅的，优美的
③ boorish *adj.* 庸俗的，粗俗的，土气的
④ peasantry *n.* [总称]农民；乡下样子
⑤ rendezvous *n.* 聚会的地方，公共场所

of the kingdom, and the most retired neighborhoods afford specimens of the different ranks.

The English, in fact, are strongly gifted with the rural feeling. They possess a quick sensibility to the beauties of nature, and a keen relish for the pleasures and employments of the country. This passion seems inherent^① in them. Even the inhabitants of cities born and brought up among brick walls and bustling^② streets, enter with facility^③ into rural habits and evince^④ a tact^⑤ for rural occupation. The merchant has his snug retreat in the vicinity of the metropolis, where he often displays as much pride and zeal in the cultivation of his flower garden and

事实上,英国人也天生的喜爱农村。他们对于大自然之美,最能领略;乡居的乐趣与乡间的工作,他们也都是极其喜爱的。此种爱好,都为天生,并非强制。即使城市中人,出生于砖屋,营营于闹市,一旦移居农村,生活习惯突然改变,各种操作,亦大异于往日,然其人一定仍能应付裕如。商人在都市近郊,大多都有一种怡情养性的小屋,他们对栽植花木与培养果树的兴致与自豪,实在不亚于对商业的经营和业务的成功。有些人比较倒霉,一辈子注定在繁嚣的城市中过活,但是他们仍设法补救,总要种些花木,使自己不忘

- ① inherent *adj.* 内在的,固有的,天生的
 ② bustling *adj.* 熙攘的;忙乱的
 ③ facility *n.* 设备,设施;便利
 ④ evince *v.* 显示,证明;表现,表示(感情等)
 ⑤ tact *n.* 得体;老练,机智

the maturing of his fruits as he does in the conduct of his business and the success of a commercial enterprise. Even those less fortunate individuals, who are doomed to pass their lives in the midst of din and traffic, contrive to have something that shall remind them of the green aspect of nature. In the most dark and dingy quarters of the city, the drawingroom window resembles frequently a bank of flowers; every spot^① capable of vegetation, has its grass plot and flower bed; and every square its mimic^② park, laid out with picturesque^③ taste, and gleaming with refreshing verdure^④.

Those who see the Englishman

大自然的绿色之美。城市中最黑暗肮脏的角落，甚至家家户户客厅的窗口，都摆满了鲜花；任何一块空地，只要土地不太贫瘠，都有草坪和花床的点缀；街头的广场，都修建了小型的公园，绿草映目，趣味高洁，使人身心为之一快。

假如你只看见过城市里的

① spot *n.* 地点，场所

② mimic *adj.* 模仿的，仿效的

③ picturesque *adj.* 美丽如画的，富于色彩的；栩栩如生的

④ verdure *n.* 青绿，嫩绿；新鲜，清新

only in town are apt to form an unfavorable opinion of his social character. He is either absorbed in business, or distracted^① by the thousand engagements that dissipate time, thought and feeling in this huge metropolis. He has therefore too commonly a look of hurry and abstraction. Wherever he happens to be, he is on the point of going somewhere else; at the moment he is talking on one subject his mind is wandering to another; and while paying a friendly visit, he is calculating how he shall economize time so as to pay the other visits allotted in the morning. An immense^② metropolis like London is calculated to make men selfish and uninteresting. In their casual^③

英国人，你对于他们的社交性格，多半会有不太好的印象。他们大多忙于自身的事业，大都市中，可以占据他们的时间，搅乱他们的情感、分散他们思想的事情，又岂止千百种，因此他们看上去，不是匆匆忙忙，就是心不在焉。他不论在什么地方，总是席不暇暖，匆匆地又要赶到别的地方去了；他在讲一件事情的时候，他的心又漂移到别的事情上去了；他好意来拜访你的时候，心里正在暗自计算如何节约时间，因为他今天上午还要赶去拜访好几家人家呢。一个人生于大都市如伦敦者，就非得变得自私乏味不可。人同人匆匆地、草草地见面，他们就讲不出什么大道理了。他们所表现的只是冷酷性格的表面，他们性格的内部，

① distract *v.* 使分心，转移(注意力)
② immense *adj.* 广大的，巨大的
③ casual *adj.* 非正式的；偶然的

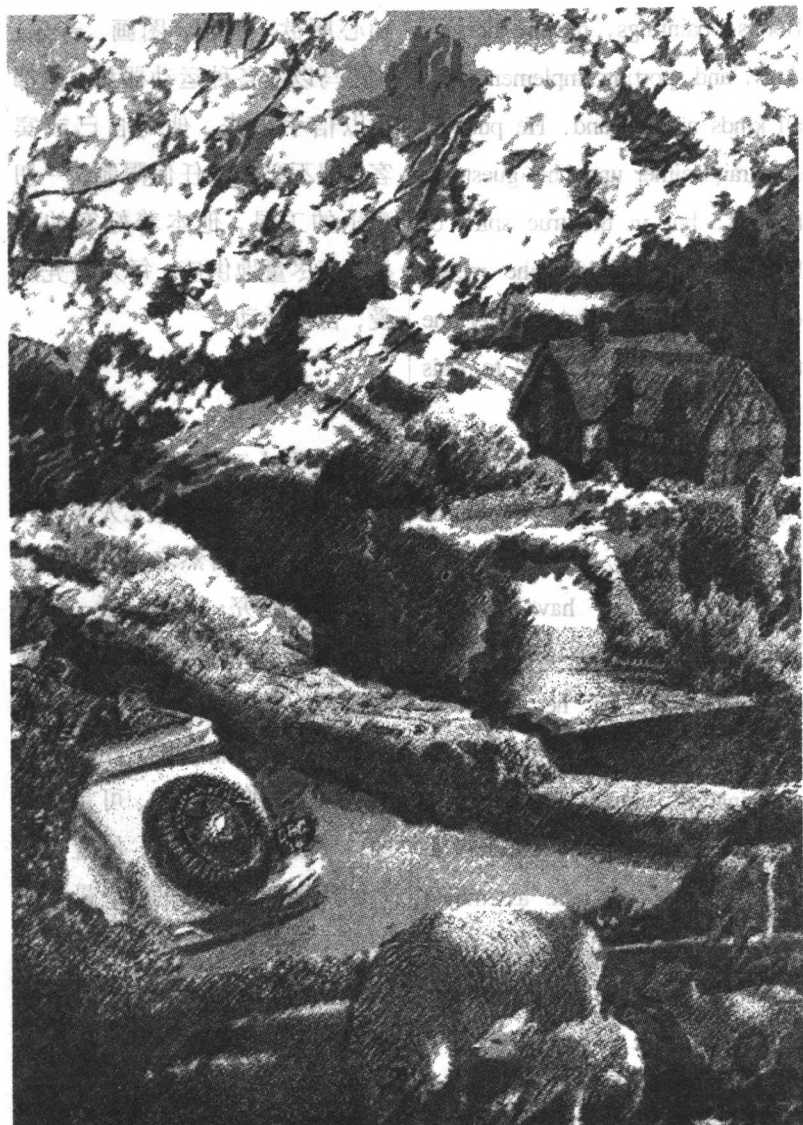
and transient^① meetings they can but deal briefly in commonplaces^②. They present but the cold superficies^③ of character — its rich and genial qualities have no time to be warmed into a flow.

It is in the country that the Englishman gives scope to his natural feelings. He breaks loose gladly from the cold formalities and negative civilities of town; throws off his habits of shy reserve, and becomes joyous and free hearted. He manages to collect around him all the conveniences and elegancies of polite life, and to banish its restraints. His country seat abounds with every requisite either for studious^④ retirement, tasteful gratification^⑤ or rural exercise.

也有其诚挚柔和的内心，要是不给它时间，它是不会发出光和热，让你感觉到的。

英国人到了乡下，他那天生的情趣就有自由发挥的机会了。城市里的那些冷漠的条款和死气沉沉的礼节对他不再有效，人也欣然获得解放了；他摒弃了城市深藏的羞怯和矜持的习惯，他变得欢快而活泼。凡是文明社会的高雅生活和便利设施，他仍可设法保留，可是文明社会的种种的约束，他可以置之不理。在他乡村的住宅里，一切设备无不应有尽有，不论他静静的读书，或者趣味高雅的耳目之娱的享受，或者乡间的运动锻炼，他都可以

① transient *adj.* 短暂的，一瞬间的；路过的
② commonplace *n.* 老生常谈；陈腔滥调
③ superficies *n.* 外表，外观；表面
④ studious *adj.* 好学的，勤勉的；认真的
⑤ gratification *n.* 满足，喜悦



Books, paintings, music, horses, dogs, and sporting implements^① of all kinds are at hand. He puts no constraint either upon his guests or himself, but in the true spirit of hospitality^②, provides the means of enjoyment, and leaves every one to partake^③ according to his inclination.

The taste of the English in the cultivation of land and in what is called landscape gardening, is unrivalled. They have studied nature intently and discover an exquisite sense of her beautiful forms and harmonious combinations. Those charms which in other countries she lavishes in wild solitudes are here assembled round the haunts of domestic life. They seem to have caught her coy

随心所欲。书刊、图画、音乐、狗、马以及各种运动器材，他都可以信手拈来。他对自己或宾客，都不必加以任何限制，一切享乐的工具，他本着好客的精神，都尽量地供应，每人各凭所爱，自行活动。

英国人对于耕作土地和所谓庭园风景的情趣，无人能够匹敌。他们对于自然之美，很用过一番苦功研究；对于一草一木的优美的形体和各种花木的和谐的搭配，英国人都有精妙的见解。这种种自然之美，在别国都在荒野里，自生自灭，可是在英国，却被人搜罗起来，放置在家宅的周围。大自然的美，最为娇羞而不可捉摸，可是英国人有办法捕捉它们，而且他们似乎有魔

① implement *n.* 器具，工具
② hospitality *n.* 好客；款待
③ partake *v.* 参与，参加；分享

and furtive graces, and spread them, like witchery^①, about their rural abodes.

Nothing can be more imposing^② than the magnificence^③ of English park scenery. Vast lawns that extend like sheets of vivid green, with here and there clumps^④ of gigantic^⑤ trees heaping up rich piles of foliage. The solemn pomp of groves and woodland glades, with the deer trooping in silent herds across them, the hare bounding away to the covert or the pheasant suddenly bursting upon the wing. The brook, taught to wind in natural meanderings or expand into a glassy lake; the sequestered pool, reflecting the quivering trees, with

法一般,把它们捉住之后,还把它们分布在自己乡村住宅的周围。

英国公园的景色,最为宏伟,其壮观恐举世无双。草地宽广,好像地上铺了鲜艳的绿色的地毯;巨木数株,聚成一簇,绿叶浓密,一眼望去,草地上东一簇西一簇这一类的大树有不少;矮树成林,望之蔚为壮观而气象庄严,林间空地之上,麋鹿成群,静静的走过;野兔受惊,你可以看见它忽地钻到草堆里去躲起来了;或者有时是雉鸡突然展翅疾翔;小溪一泓,曲曲折折,随意而流,或然豁然开朗,汇成镜子似的湖泊;小潭幽静,潭心中映照出摇曳的树枝,黄叶在它的怀抱中熟睡了,清澈的潭水之中,鲟鱼无所顾忌地游来游

- ① witchery *n.* 魔法,巫术;魅力
② imposing *adj.* 宏伟的;堂皇的
③ magnificence *n.* 壮丽;宏伟
④ clump *n.* (树、草等)丛,簇
⑤ gigantic *adj.* 巨大的;巨人般的

the yellow leaf sleeping on its bosom, and the trout roaming fearlessly about its limpid waters; while some rustic temple, or sylvan statue grown green and dank with age, gives an air of classic sanctity^① to the seclusion^②.

These are but a few of the features of park scenery; but what most delights me is the creative talent with which the English decorate the unostentatious^③ abodes of middle life. The rudest habitation, the most unpromising^④ and scanty^⑤ portion of land, in the hands of an Englishman of taste, becomes a little paradise. With a nicely discriminating eye, he seizes at once upon its capabilities, and pictures in his mind the future

去; 这种地方, 偶尔也有村庙一座, 或者是什么林神木仙的塑像, 虽然因为年代久远, 已经霉湿而长满了绿苔, 可是也使僻静的环境之中, 显出一种古典的圣洁气氛。

这些不过是公园景点的几个特色而已, 可是给我最大喜悦的, 倒不是这些宏伟的公园, 而是英国人巧夺天工的天才, 他们把一些平凡的中等家庭的住宅, 都布置得精美异常, 一座最简陋的住宅, 一块贫瘠得难以有出产的土地, 到了一个有美术修养的英国人手中, 立刻就成了一片小小的天堂。他别具慧眼, 看出那片地方有些多少美化的可能性, 立刻在心目中想像出将来可以设计成什么样的风景。一经妙

① sanctity *n.* 圣洁; 神圣
② seclusion *n.* 幽僻文雅之地
③ unostentatious *adj.* 朴素的
④ unpromising *adj.* 无前途的, 没有希望的
⑤ scanty *adj.* 贫乏的

landscape. The sterile spot grows into loveliness under his hands; and yet the operations of art which produce the effect are scarcely to be perceived. The cherishing and training of some trees; the cautious pruning of others; the nice distribution of flowers and plants of tender and graceful foliage; the introduction of a green slope^① of velvet^② turf^③; the partial opening to a peep of blue distance or silver gleam of water; all these are managed with a delicate tact, a pervading^④ yet quiet assiduity^⑤, like the magic touchings with which a painter finishes up a favorite picture.

The residence of people of fortune and refinement in the

手,荒地变成锦绣;可是一切虽全属艺术,却顺乎自然,匠心的独用,一点儿也看不出来。某些树木的栽植培育,另一些树木的修剪整理;有些草木以花朵引人,有些草木则嫩叶轻盈,别具丰韵,这两种应该如何巧妙的搭配;如何把如茵的软绿草地,布置成倾斜的坡度;如何在草木之间,安放一处小小的罅隙,从那里望出去,可以看见远处蔚蓝的天空,或者是银光闪闪的一片水面——这一切的安排,都经过巧妙的设计;处处费心,可是处处不露痕迹;好像画师作成他钟爱的图画的时候,有传神之笔,难以言传之妙。

乡村殷富而教育程度较高的住户,在他们的农村生产事业

- ① slope *n.* 倾斜;斜坡
- ② velvet *adj.* 柔软的
- ③ turf *n.* 草地
- ④ pervade *v.* 弥漫,渗透;遍及
- ⑤ assiduity *n.* 勤勉,刻苦

country has diffused a degree of taste and elegance in rural economy that descends to the lowest class. The very laborer, with his thatched cottage and narrow slip of ground, attends to their embellishment. The trim hedge, the grass-plot before the door, the little flower-bed bordered with snug box; the woodbine trained up against the wall and hanging its blossoms about the lattice; the pot of flowers in the window; the holly providently planted about the house to cheat winter of its dreariness^①, and to throw in a semblance^② of green summer to cheer the fireside; all these bespeak^③ the influence of taste, flowing down from high sources, and pervading the lowest levels of the public mind. If ever

之中，固然散布着一种高雅的情趣，即使小家贫农，也是生活在美化的环境之中。一个小小的长工，所住的是茅屋一间，屋前仅有一条狭小的空地，他也注意到美化的工作。篱笆修剪得很整齐，门前有平整的草坪，小小的花床周围是整齐的黄杨，墙上爬满忍冬花，屋子周围则别具巧思的种满了冬青；因此到了冬天，仍旧满目青翠，使人不致有荒凉之感，屋内的人围炉而坐，仍旧可以觉得身处绿色的夏天。这一切都说明了自上而下的高雅的情趣，在上层领导于前，其影响乃广被民间下层群众追随之后。被诗人所歌咏着的爱神，据说最喜欢降临茅屋草庐，我想他爱光顾的一定是英国农民的小屋。

① dreariness *n.* 凄凉；沉寂
② semblance *n.* 外表，外貌；貌似物
③ bespeak *v.* 显示，证明

love, as poets sing, delights to visit a cottage, it must be the cottage of an English peasant.

The fondness^① for rural life among the higher classes of the English has had a great and salutary^② effect upon the national character. I do not know a finer race of men than the English gentlemen. Instead of the softness and effeminacy which characterize the men of rank in most countries, they exhibit a union of elegance and strength, a robustness of frame and freshness of complexion, which I am inclined to attribute to their living so much in the open air, and pursuing so eagerly the invigorating^③ recreations of the country. These hardy exercises produce also a healthful tone of

英国上流社会喜欢乡村生活，这一点对于英国民族特征也有很大的良好影响。英国的绅士实在是世界上最优秀的人士。别的国家的所谓上等人大多文弱纤巧，可是英国的绅士大多文武兼备，仪态固然优雅，可是体魅刚强，脸色红润，其原因我想是由于他们在户外生活的习惯，由于他们真心地喜欢从事乡村的健身活动。他们的身体不断的锻炼，使他们的心智和精神都变得非常健康，使他们拥有质朴以及雄赳赳的气概；即使他们在城里过的仍是荒唐愚昧的生活，但是在乡村里汲取良好修养，却不容易因此变质，更不会全部沦丧。在乡村里，社会阶层的划分并不

- ① fondness *n.* 爱好；钟爱
② salutary *adj.* 有益的
③ invigorating *adj.* 精力充沛的，鼓舞的