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全译

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名利场

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英语学习大书虫研究室 译



CHAPTER XXXV

Widow and Mother

The news of the great fights of Quatre Bras and Waterloo reached England at the same time. The Gazette first published the result of the two battles; at which glorious intelligence all England thrilled with triumph and fear. Particulars then followed; and after the announcement of the victories came the list of the wounded and the slain. Who can tell the dread with which that catalogue was opened and read!

Fancy, at every village and homestead almost through the three kingdoms, the great news coming of the battles in Flanders, and the feelings of exultation and gratitude, bereavement and sickening dismay, when the lists of the regimental losses were gone through, and it became known whether the dear friend and relative had escaped or fallen. Anybody who will take the trouble of looking back to a file of the newspapers of the time, must, even now, feel at second-hand this breathless pause of expectation.

The lists of casualties are carried on from day to day: you stop in the midst as in a story which is to be continued in our next. Think what the feelings must have been as those papers followed each other fresh from the press; and if such an interest could be felt in our country, and about a battle where but twenty thousand of our people were engaged, think of the condition of Europe for twenty years before, where people were fighting, not by thousands, but by millions; each one of whom as he struck his enemy wounded horribly some other innocent heart far away.

The news which that famous Gazette brought to the

第三十五章

寡妇和母亲

加德白拉和滑铁卢两次大战的消息同时传到了英国。政府公报在第一时间公布了两次战役的结果;当胜利的消息发布出来的时候,所有英国人的心都由于成功和害怕而发抖了。然后紧接着就是战争中的细节,当那个胜利的消息公布以后,那些受伤或者死亡者的名单也就跟着出来了。当这张名单被打开宣读的时候,谁能够描述那种恐慌的心情呢!

你设想一下,在英格兰、苏格兰和威尔士,几乎每一个家庭都与这两场战役息息相关。他们知道了弗兰德斯两次大战的消息,当那些伤亡军人的名单给公布出来的时候,所有人都明白了他们最亲爱的朋友或者亲人的情况,他们是在战斗中幸存了下来,还是在战斗中倒下了,因此有人欣喜若狂,有人悲痛欲绝!如果哪些人还有兴趣去看看当年的旧报纸,一定会,甚至现在,还能深切地体会到焦急地等待消息时那种呼吸停止的滋味。

伤亡者的名单一天接一天地在报纸上公布,当我们读完当天的内容停下来时,就好像是读故事读了一半,未完待续一样。试想一下当这些报纸被一张接一张地印刷出来的时候,看报纸的人的感情有多大的起伏?那一次战役我们的国家仅仅有两万人参与了,就导致了这样一种情况,那么请想象一下二十年前,欧洲战场上的情景,在那儿参加战斗的人们不是成千上万,而是几百万人,其中任何一个人杀死一个敌手,也同时伤害了远方无辜亲人的心。

著名的政府公报上所公布的消息,带

Osbornes gave a dreadful shock to the family and its chief. The girls indulged unrestrained in their grief. The gloom-stricken old father was still more borne down by his fate and sorrow. He strove to think that a judgment was on the boy for his disobedience. He dared not own that the severity of the sentence frightened him, and that its fulfilment had come too soon upon his curses. Sometimes a shuddering terror struck him, as if he had been the author of the doom which he had called down on his son.

There was a chance before of reconciliation. The boy's wife might have died; or he might have come back and said, Father I have sinned. But there was no hope now. He stood on the other side of the gulf impassable, haunting his parent with sad eyes. He remembered them once before so in a fever, when every one thought the lad was dying, and he lay on his bed speechless, and gazing with a dreadful gloom.

Good God! how the father clung to the doctor then, and with what a sickening anxiety he followed him: what a weight of grief was off his mind when, after the crisis of the fever, the lad recovered, and looked at his father once more with eyes that recognised him. But now there was no help or cure, or chance of reconciliation; above all, there were no humble words to soothe vanity outraged and furious, or bring to its natural flow the poisoned, angry blood. And it is hard to say which pang it was that tore the proud father's heart most keenly -- that his son should have gone out of the reach of his forgiveness, or that the apology which his own pride expected should have escaped him.

Whatever his sensations might have been, however, the stern old man would have no confidant. He never mentioned his son's name to his daughters; but ordered the elder to place all the females of the establishment in mourning; and desired that the male servants should be similarly attired in deep black.

All parties and entertainments, of course, were to be put off. No communications were made to his future son-in-law, whose marriage-day had been

给奥斯本一家人,特别是一家之长的是一个十分沉重的打击。那两个女孩深陷于悲伤之中,而那位沮丧的老父亲也伤心欲绝。他一直努力地认为,这是对他那不听儿子的一个公正的惩罚。他自己不敢承认这个严重的判决使他很惊慌,他不敢承认自己对儿子的诅咒实现得太快了。有时候一想到他曾经是施加在儿子身上的那些咒语的创造者,一种突如其来的恐怖就会扑面而来。

本来还有和解的机会,孩子的老婆本来可能死去;或者他可能会跑回来对他的父亲说:“父亲,我做得不对。”但是现在已经没有希望了。他们父子之间横着一条无法逾越的鸿沟,乔治悲伤的眼睛常常浮现在他父亲的脑海中。他还能回忆起有一次乔治发高烧,那时每个人都想着这个年轻人就要死掉了,他躺在床上,不说一句话,只是用他可怕的阴郁眼光凝视着其他人。

仁慈的上帝哪!当时他的内心充满了多少悲痛啊,那时候他是怎样四处跟着医生,缠住医生,在发烧的危机过去以后,那个年轻人恢复了,并且再一次地用眼睛看到了他的父亲,也认出了他。但是现在呢,即没有什么救药,也没有一个和解的机会。再也没有人用低声下气的话语来安慰那个空虚、愤怒、狂暴的心灵了。他的血液仿佛中了毒,只要发作起来,总要儿子向他道歉,他才会平息怒气。让那个骄傲的父亲最悲伤的是什么呢?是由于没有在儿子生前原谅他吗?还是因为儿子没有向他道歉,他不能忍受呢?

不论这位严厉的老人有什么心事,反正他什么都不说。在女儿面前,他从来没有提到过儿子的名字,只是命令这个家庭里的所有女性都穿上丧服,还要求所有的男佣都穿上那种黑色的丧服。

所有的社交会和娱乐活动,当然,都应该向后推迟。白洛克和玛丽亚结婚的日子本来已经定好了,但是奥斯本先生和他

fixed; but there was enough in Mr. Osborne's appearance to prevent Mr. Bullock from making any inquiries, or in any way pressing forward that ceremony. He and the ladies whispered about it under their voices in the drawing-room sometimes, whither the father never came. He remained constantly in his own study; the whole front part of the house being closed until some time after the completion of the general mourning.

About three weeks after the 18th of June, Mr. Osborne's acquaintance, Sir William Dobbin, called at Mr. Osborne's house in Russell Square, with a very pale and agitated face, and insisted upon seeing that gentleman. Ushered into his room, and after a few words, which neither the speaker nor the host understood, the former produced from an inclosure a letter sealed with a large red seal. 'My son, Major Dobbin,' the Alderman said, with some hesitation, 'despatched me a letter by an officer of the — — —, who arrived in town to — day. My son's letter contains one for you, Osborne.' The Alderman placed the letter on the table, and Osborne stared at him for a moment or two in silence. His looks frightened the ambassador, who after looking guiltily for a little time at the grief-stricken man, hurried away without another word.

The letter was in George's well-known bold handwriting. It was that one which he had written before daybreak on the 16th of June, and just before he took leave of Amelia. The great red seal was emblazoned with the sham coat of arms which Osborne had assumed from the Peerage, with 'Pax in bello' for a motto; that of the ducal house with which the vain old man tried to fancy himself connected. The hand that signed it would never hold pen or sword more. The very seal that sealed it had been robbed from George's dead body as it lay on the field of battle. The father knew nothing of this, but sat and looked at the letter in terrified vacancy. He almost fell when he went to open it.

Have you ever had a difference with a dear friend? How his letters, written in the period of love and

未来的女婿却没有了沟通。白洛克先生一点也不能对此询问,而且也不能建议提前进行那个典礼。有时他和那些女士在客厅里把他们的声音压得低低地议论结婚的事情,无论什么时候奥斯本先生是从来不到这儿来的,他总是一个人呆在书房里,凡是房屋向阳的一面全都要关起来,一直等到英雄的丧期过后才能打开。

大约在六月十八日过后的第三个星期,奥斯本先生的老相识威廉·都宾爵士到勒塞尔广场来拜访他。威廉爵士脸色苍白,神色恍惚,他坚持着一定要见那个绅士。管家把他带到他的房间里,他说了几句彼此都不明白的寒暄话,然后就拿出一封书信来,上面盖着红色的印记。那个市议员犹豫地说道:“今天第——联队有个军官要来到小镇上,小儿都宾少佐托他带回来一封信。里面有你儿子给你的信,奥斯本。”那个市议员说过了这些之后,就把信放在了桌子上。奥斯本瞪着他,在一分钟或者两分钟的时间里,他都是沉默的。他的表情让那个大使很是害怕,他似乎有罪一样,对那个伤心的老头儿看了两眼,再也没有说一句话就匆匆忙忙地离开了。

信上的字苍劲有力,一看就知道是乔治的笔迹。这是一封他在六月十六日黎明前写的信,是在和爱米丽亚分别前写的。那红色的印章印的是他们家假冒的纹章。许多年以前,这个爱面子的老男人为了取悦自己,从贵族谱系录里面看见奥斯本公爵的图章和他的家族的格言“用战争争取和平”,就一起偷用了,以此冒充公爵的本家。在这封信上签名的手,以后再也无法拿起那支笔和举起剑了。就连那个印戳子也在乔治死在战场上的时候,被人抢走了。对这件事情他的父亲一点都不了解。他只是坐在那里,看着那封信发呆,当他站起来要打开那封信的时候差点摔倒在地上。

你曾经与一个亲爱的好朋友有过不合吗?当看到你们相爱和相互信任的时候他

confidence, sicken and rebuke you! What a dreary mourning it is to dwell upon those vehement protests of dead affection! What lying epitaphs they make over the corpse of love! What dark, cruel comments upon Life and Vanities! Most of us have got or written drawers full of them. They are closet - skeletons which we keep and shun. Osborne trembled long before the letter from his dead son.

The poor boy's letter did not say much. He had been too proud to acknowledge the tenderness which his heart felt. He only said, that on the eve of a great battle, he wished to bid his father farewell, and solemnly to implore his good offices for the wife - it might be for the child - whom he left behind him. He owned with contrition that his irregularities and his extravagance had already wasted a large part of his mother's little fortune. He thanked his father for his former generous conduct; and he promised him that if he fell on the field or survived it, he would act in a manner worthy of the name of George Osborne.

His English habit, pride, awkwardness perhaps, had prevented him from saying more. His father could not see the kiss George had placed on the superscription of his letter. Mr. Osborne dropped it with the bitterest, deadliest pang of balked affection and revenge. His son was still beloved and unforgiven.

About two months afterwards, however, as the young ladies of the family went to church with their father, they remarked how he took a different seat from that which he usually occupied when he chose to attend divine worship; and that from his cushion opposite, he looked up at the wall over their heads.

This caused the young women likewise to gaze in the direction towards which their father's gloomy eyes pointed: and they saw an elaborate monument upon the wall, where Britannia was represented weeping over an urn, and a broken sword and a couchant lion indicated that the piece of sculpture had been erected in honour of a deceased warrior. The sculptors of those days had stocks of such fune-

写给你的信,你心里一定很难受、很自责。重温已经死去的感情,那是多么沉闷和悲恸啊。这简直就是竖在爱情坟墓上的墓志铭,它们又是对人生虚荣的残酷嘲讽,我们大多数人都收到过或者是写过满满一抽屉这样的信。那是我们保存着但是避免去说的东西。奥斯本在把那个死去的儿子的信打开之前,颤抖了很长时间。

那个可怜的男孩的信上并没有说太多的话语。他是如此的骄傲,以致于他不愿意承认自己心里的感情。他只是说,现在是一次伟大战役的前夕,他希望和他的父亲说声再见,并祝愿他。他非常庄严地恳求他的父亲能够照顾他的妻子,也许还有他的孩子,他们是他留给他的。他承认他的荒唐,他那奢侈的花钱习惯,已经让他把母亲的一大部分遗产浪费掉了,他感谢父亲以前对他的正确引导,最后他向父亲许诺,无论他是死在战场上还是侥幸活下来,他一定要让乔治·奥斯本的名字增添光彩。

可能因为英国人的那种高傲,可能还有一点困窘,使他没有再多写。他吻着他父亲名字的情形,他的父亲是看不到的,奥斯本先生感到他的感情受了打击,但是又没有报仇的机会,他带着最怨恨、最痛苦的心情把那封信给放下了。他仍然爱他的儿子,但是却依然不能够原谅他。

此后大约两个月的时间里,当年轻的小姐们和她们的父亲一块去教堂的时候。他的女儿们注意到他坐在了一个不同的位子上,他以往做礼拜的时候,总是占用一个固定的位子,但是那天却跑过去坐在她们对面,看着她们后面的墙。

这使得那些年轻的女人们,也同样朝她们父亲悲伤的眼神所看的方向看去,她们在墙上看见了一块精美的纪念碑。碑上雕刻着一位代表英国的女人,她正对着一个骨灰坛子哭泣,上面还有一把折断的剑和一头躺着的狮子,这些都表示这个雕塑像是为纪念已故的战士而立的。当年的雕刻家手里都有一些葬礼上用的这类标记。

real emblems in hand; as you may see still on the walls of St. Paul's, which are covered with hundreds of these braggart heathen allegories. There was a constant demand for them during the first fifteen years of the present century.

Under the memorial in question were emblazoned the well-known and pompous Osborne arms; and the inscription said, that the monument was 'Sacred to the memory of George Osborne, Junior, Esq., late a Captain in his Majesty's - - th regiment of foot, who fell on the 18th of June, 1815, aged 28 years, while fighting for his king and country in the glorious victory of Waterloo. Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.'

The sight of that stone agitated the nerves of the sisters so much, that Miss Maria was compelled to leave the church. The congregation made way respectfully for those sobbing girls clothed in deep black, and pitied the stern old father seated opposite the memorial of the dead soldier. 'Will he forgive Mrs. George?' the girls said to themselves as soon as their ebullition of grief was over. Much conversation passed too among the acquaintances of the Osborne family, who knew of the rupture between the son and father caused by the former's marriage, as to the chance of a reconciliation with the young widow. There were bets among the gentlemen both about Russell Square and in the City.

If the sisters had any anxiety regarding the possible recognition of Amelia as a daughter of the family, it was increased presently, and towards the end of the autumn, by their father's announcement that he was going abroad. He did not say whither, but they knew at once that his steps would be turned towards Belgium, and were aware that George's widow was still in Brussels. They had pretty accurate news indeed of poor Amelia from Lady Dobbin and her daughters. Our honest Captain had been promoted in consequence of the death of the second Major of the regiment on the field; and the brave O'Dowd, who had distinguished himself greatly here as upon all occasions where he had a chance to show his coolness

就像你可以看到的,到现在为止在圣·保罗教堂的墙上还有成百上千的这些异教徒的寓言故事。本世纪刚开始的十五年里头,对这类雕刻的需求一直很大。

在这块纪念碑的下面装饰着奥斯本家皇室的纹章,上面还题着字,这块碑是为纪念皇家陆军第一——联队步兵上尉乔治·奥斯本先生而庄严竖立的。奥斯本先生在一八一五年六月十八日滑铁卢大战中,为他的英王陛下和祖国的荣耀而光荣地牺牲了,享年二十八岁。下面是拉丁文:“为祖国而死是光荣的,是心甘情愿的。”

两姐妹看见了这块石碑之后,她们的精神是如此的不安,玛丽亚不得不离开教堂。集会的人看到那两个穿着黑色衣服的小姐哭得这么悲痛,都肃然起敬,急急忙忙地让出路来;那个苛刻的老父亲坐在那些已故军士的纪念碑的对面,大家都很同情他。当悲伤过去以后,那些女孩们就对自己说:“他是不是准备原谅乔治夫人呢。”只要是和奥斯本家很熟的人都明白,那个儿子和他的父亲由于前者的婚姻问题而闹翻了,因此,熟人之间大部分的话题,都是关于那个年轻的寡妇是否有机会和公公和解。在市中心和勒塞尔广场,很多人都为这件事下了赌注。

奥斯本姊妹也非常着急,她们害怕父亲会承认爱玛丽亚。过了不久,她们更是担心,因为那年晚秋时节,她们的父亲宣布说他准备出国。他没有说清楚目的地,但是他的女儿们立刻就明白他的脚步要转向比利时,并且她们也意识到乔治的妻子仍然在比利时的京城布鲁塞尔。对于可怜的爱玛丽亚,她们从都宾爵士夫人和她的女儿那里得到了一些十分准确的消息。自从联队里的第二少佐在战斗中牺牲之后,我们诚实的都宾上尉就被提了上去。勇敢的奥多呢,他是非常杰出的,他利用一切机会来表现他的冷静和勇敢,升到了陆军团长的位置,而且还得了个下级骑士的封号。

and valour, was a Colonel and Companion of the Bath.

Very many of the brave — — th, who had suffered severely upon both days of action, were still at Brussels in the autumn, recovering of their wounds. The city was a vast military hospital for months after the great battles; and as men and officers began to rally from their hurts, the gardens and places of public resort swarmed with maimed warriors, old and young, who, just rescued out of death, fell to gambling, and gaiety, and love — making, as people of Vanity Fair will do. Mr. Osborne found out some of the — — th easily.

He knew their uniform quite well, and had been used to follow all the promotions and exchanges in the regiment, and loved to talk about it and its officers as if he had been one of the number. On the day after his arrival at Brussels, and as he issued from his hotel, which faced the park, he saw a soldier in the well — known facings, reposing on a stone bench in the garden, and went and sat down trembling by the wounded convalescent man.

‘Were you in Captain Osborne’s company?’ he said, and added, after a pause, ‘he was my son, sir.’

The man was not of the Captain’s company, but he lifted up his unwounded arm and touched — his cap sadly and respectfully to the haggard broken — spirited gentleman who questioned him. ‘The whole army didn’t contain a finer or a better officer,’ the soldier said. ‘The Sergeant of the Captain’s company (Captain Raymond had it now), was in town, though, and was just well of a shot in the shoulder. His honour might see him if he liked, who could tell him anything he wanted to know about — — about the — — th’s actions. But his honour had seen Major Dobbin, no doubt, the brave Captain’s great friend; and Mrs. Osborne, who was here too, and had been very bad, he heard everybody say. They say she was out of her mind like for six weeks or more. But your honour knows all about that — — and asking your pardon’ — — the man added.

由于英勇的第一——联队伤亡惨重,因此一直到秋天仍然有很多人呆在布鲁塞尔等着他们的伤痊愈。在那个伟大的战役结束以后,几个月的时间内这个城市建成了一个很大的军医院。那些军官和小兵们开始复原,所以花园里和许多公共场所都挤满了受伤的战士。年老的、年轻的,他们刚刚从死神手里逃脱出来,就尽情地赌博、寻欢作乐、谈情说爱,就像名利场上人们所做的事情一样。奥斯本先生非常容易地找到了其中的一些人。

他非常熟悉他们的制服。他过去常常关注着联队里所有的提升和变化,并且非常喜欢谈论联队里的军官,就好像他曾经是当中的一员。当他到达布鲁塞尔以后,一天他从旅馆里出来,旅馆正对着公园,他看见一个在长凳子上躺着的伤员,军装上的领章一看就知道是第一——联队的。他全身发抖地走到了那个受伤的士兵身边坐了下来。

他问道:“你以前陪伴过奥斯本上尉吗?”停了一下,他补充了一句:“他是我的儿子,先生。”

那个男人说他不是上尉的连队里的。但是当他看到向他询问的那个老绅士形容枯槁、悲痛欲绝的面容时,他抬起没有受伤的胳膊,扶了扶帽子,悲哀而又尊敬地向他敬了一个礼,说道:“整个军队里都不会再有比他更杰出或者是更好的军官了。上尉连队里的军士还在这个小镇上,现在是雷蒙上尉做连长了。他肩膀上的伤已经复元,想见到他并不难,如果他愿意的话,可以去见他,你可以问他有关联队在战斗中的所有情况。您一定见过都宾少佐吧,毫无疑问,他可是勇敢的上尉最好的朋友。还有奥斯本太太,她也住在这里,但是听人说她的身体十分虚弱。他们说六个星期以来,她看上去就像得了精神病一样。但是你一定清楚所有这些有关情况,请恕我多嘴。”那个男人又加了一句。

Osborne put a guinea into the soldier's hand, and told him he should have another if he would bring the Sergeant to the Hotel du Parc; a promise which very soon brought the desired officer to Mr. Osborne's presence. And the first soldier went away; and after telling a comrade or two how Captain Osborne's father was arrived, and what a free-handed generous gentleman he was, they went and made good cheer with drink and feasting, as long as the guineas lasted which had come from the proud purse of the mourning old father.

In the Sergeant's company, who was also just convalescent, Osborne made the journey of Waterloo and Quatre Bras, a journey which thousands of his countrymen were then taking. He took the Sergeant with him in his carriage, and went through both fields under his guidance. He saw the point of the road where the regiment marched into action on the 16th, and the slope down which they drove the French cavalry who were pressing on the retreating Belgians. There was the spot where the noble Captain cut down the French officer who was grappling with the young Ensign for the colours, the Colour-Sergeants having been shot down.

Along this road they retreated on the next day, and here was the bank at which the regiment bivouacked under the rain of the night of the seventeenth. Further on was the position which they took and held during the day, forming time after time to receive the charge of the enemy's horsemen and lying down under the shelter of the bank from the furious French cannonade. And it was at this declivity when at evening the whole English line received the order to advance.

As the enemy fell back after his last charge, that the Captain, hurrying and rushing down the hill waving his sword, received a shot and fell dead. 'It was Major Dobbin who took back the Captain's body to Brussels,' the Sergeant said, in a low voice, 'and had him buried, as your honour knows.' The peasants and relic-hunters about the place were screaming round the pair, as the soldier told his sto-

奥斯本把一基尼放在那个士兵的手里,又告诉他,如果他把中士领到这个公园旅馆里来的话,他应该可以再得到一基尼。那个人答应了,并且很快就把那位军官带到了奥斯本先生的面前。这个伤兵走出去时遇到了两个朋友,给他们说奥斯本上尉的父亲是怎样来的,说他是一个出手十分大方的老绅士。他们一起出去,把那个悲恸的老父亲给他的钱全用在了喝酒请客享乐上。

那位中士,也是刚刚康复,奥斯本让他陪着一块到滑铁卢和加德白拉转了一圈。那个时候,他成千上万的同胞都会到这些地方来旅游的。他让那个军官坐在他的四轮马车里,他在他的向导的指引下穿过了那个战场。他看到第一——联队在十六日开始向前行军时经过的那条小路,他们又来到那个斜坡上面,当时,法国骑兵队紧紧跟着溃退的比利时军队就从此路前进。就在这斜坡上,那个高尚的上尉杀死了那个法国军官,当时他正和一个旗手争执,可在此以前,中士旗手已经中弹身亡了。

紧接着第二天,也就是十七日,他们便沿着这条路后退了;十七日夜里,联队里的士兵就在堤岸上冒着大雨守夜。再远一点就是他坚守了一天的阵地;他们一次又一次地遭到法国大炮的轰击,但是他们一直坚守。在法国军队对他们连续开炮的时候,他们就一直躺在堤岸的掩蔽处。就在那个堤坝下,就在那个晚上,所有的英国士兵接到让他们前进的命令。

当时,敌人在他们的最后一次进攻之后已经逃跑了,那个上尉,就挥着剑从山坡上勇敢地冲了下去,就在这时他被打了一枪,倒在那儿死了。军官低声说道:“正如高尚的您所了解的,正是都宾少佐,把上尉的尸体弄到布鲁塞尔,然后把他埋葬了。”当那个军官把那一天发生的故事说给奥斯本听的时候,附近的农民和收集战场遗物

ry, offering for sale all sorts of mementoes of the fight, crosses, and epaulets, and shattered cuirasses, and eagles.

Osborne gave a sumptuous reward to the Sergeant when he parted with him, after having visited the scenes of his son's last exploits. His burial - place he had already seen. Indeed, he had driven thither immediately after his arrival at Brussels. George's body lay in the pretty burial - ground of Laeken, near the city; in which place, having once visited it on a party of pleasure, he had lightly expressed a wish to have his grave made. And there the young officer was laid by his friend, in the unconsecrated corner of the garden, separated by a little hedge from the temples and towers and plantations of flowers and shrubs, under which the Roman Catholic dead repose.

It seemed a humiliation to old Osborne to think that his son, an English gentleman, a captain in the famous British army, should not be found worthy to lie in ground where mere foreigners were buried. Which of us is there can tell how much vanity lurks in our warmest regard for others, and how selfish our love is? Old Osborne did not speculate much upon the mingled nature of his feelings, and how his instinct and selfishness were combating together.

He firmly believed that everything he did was right, that he ought on all occasions to have his own way - - and like the sting of a wasp or serpent his hatred rushed out armed and poisonous against anything like opposition. He was proud of his hatred as of everything else. Always to be right, always to trample forward, and never to doubt, are not these the great qualities with which dullness takes the lead in the world?

As after the drive to Waterloo, Mr. Osborne's carriage was nearing the gates of the city at sunset, they met another open barouche, in which were a couple of ladies and a gentleman, and by the side of which an officer was riding. Osborne gave a start back, and the Sergeant, seated with him, cast a look of surprise at his neighbour, as he touched his

的商人围着他们两个尖声叫卖各种各样的纪念品,比如十字章、棍棒、肩饰、粉碎的胸甲片以及鹰徽等等。

奥斯本和军官一起在他的儿子最后一次立功的地方参观了以后,他们分开的时候他给了那个军官一份丰厚的报酬。实际上,他已经去看过乔治的坟了。他刚到布鲁塞尔就去扫墓了。乔治的尸体埋在离城市很近的美丽的莱根公墓里面。以前,乔治曾和他的朋友们一起去那里参观过,当时他曾经表示过要把他的墓建在那里的愿望。于是他的朋友就把他埋葬在了一个不属于教会的地方,周围还用一道围篱隔开。外面是天主教堂、草坪、树篱和天主教徒的墓地。

这对老奥斯本来说好像有一点羞耻,当他想到他的儿子,一个英国绅士,一个闻名的英军上尉,绝对不应该躺在埋葬普通外国人的地方。我们和人交往时,有多少真心,又有多少假意,我们的感情到底有多自私,这些都无从探知。奥斯本老头儿从来都不注意自己的感情,也没有意识到自己的本能和自私之间的斗争。

他一直都坚定不移地相信他做的永远是对的,他抓住一切机会按照自己的方式做事,一旦有人反对他,他就会千方百计地报复,那样子就像黄蜂螫人、毒蛇咬人。他像对待别的事情一样对他的仇恨感到自豪。认为自己永远正确,总是义无反顾地向前走,永远没有怀疑,这难道不是世上糊涂的领导人的伟大品质吗?

在太阳要落山的时候,奥斯本先生的马车从滑铁卢回来了,在城门附近,他们遇见了另外一辆敞篷车。车里面坐着两个夫人、一位绅士,还有一个军官骑着马走在旁边。奥斯本猛然向后一缩,那个军官看到奥斯本向后一缩,觉得很奇怪。当他举起手向那个军官敬礼的时候,那个军官机械

cap to the officer, who mechanically returned his salute.

It was Amelia, with the lame young Ensign by her side, and opposite to her her faithful friend Mrs. O'Dowd. It was Amelia, but how changed from the fresh and comely girl Osborne knew. Her face was white and thin. Her pretty brown hair was parted under a widow's cap -- the poor child. Her eyes were fixed, and looking nowhere. They stared blank in the face of Osborne, as the carriages crossed each other, but she did not know him; nor did he recognise her, until looking up, he saw Dobbin riding by her; and then he knew who it was. He hated her. He did not know how much until he saw her there.

When her carriage had passed on, he turned and stared at the Sergeant, with a curse and defiance in his eye cast at his companion, who could not help looking at him -- as much as to say 'How dare you look at me? Damn you! I do hate her. It is she who has tumbled my hopes and all my pride down.' 'Tell the scoundrel to drive on quick,' he shouted with an oath, to the lackey on the box. A minute afterwards, a horse came clattering over the pavement behind Osborne's carriage, and Dobbin rode up. His thoughts had been elsewhere as the carriages passed each other, and it was not until he had ridden some paces forward, that he remembered it was Osborne who had just passed him.

Then he turned to examine if the sight of her father-in-law had made any impression on Amelia, but the poor girl did not know who had passed. Then William, who daily used to accompany her in his drives, taking out his watch, made some excuse about an engagement which he suddenly recollected, and so rode off. She did not remark that either: but sat looking before her, over the homely landscape towards the woods in the distance, by which George marched away.

'Mr. Osborne, Mr. Osborne!' cried Dobbin, as he rode up and held out his hand. Osborne made no motion to take it, but shouted out once more and

地还了他一礼。

这是爱米丽亚,那个跛了脚的旗手坐在她的旁边,坐在她对面的是她最可靠的朋友奥多太太。这就是爱米丽亚,但是跟奥斯本所知道的幼稚清秀的小女孩相比变化是多么大啊。她的面孔是瘦瘦的、白白的,她的栗色秀发朝两侧分开,头上有一个寡妇戴的帽子,可怜的孩子,她的眼睛是无神的,任何地方都没有看。当两辆马车面对面的时候,她们没有表情地看着奥斯本的脸,但是她却不认识他。奥斯本先生也没有把她给认出来,一直到他抬起头的时候,他看见都宾骑着马跟在她的旁边,接着他才知道她是谁。

他恨她。一直到看见她的那一刻,他知道他把她恨到了哪种程度。那个军官忍不住盯着他看,当马车过去以后,他转过头瞪着那个军官,他的眼神恶狠狠地,那个样子好像在说:“你怎么敢那样看着我?你应该受到谴责!我确实恨她。正是她把我的所有希望和自豪全部毁掉了。”他对驭座上的男仆大声咆哮道:“告诉那个恶棍,让他把车子赶快一点!”一分钟以后,就听到奥斯本的车子后面有得得的马蹄声响起,都宾骑着马追了上来。当这两辆车子面对面的时候,他没有在意,直到走了几步之后,他才想起刚才过去的是奥斯本。

接着他又急忙转过头来看了一眼爱米丽亚,看她在看见她的公公以后脸上有什么表情,但是那可怜的女孩儿不知道谁从他们身边过去了。威廉过去常常是每天都要陪着她出来坐车散心的,他拿出表,就像突然记起另外还有个约会一样,找了一个理由,就这样骑马离开了。爱米丽亚也没有注意到这些,她只是心满意足地看着前面,看着远处那一大片树林——乔治行军打仗那天就是从那片树林经过的。

都宾骑马追上来并且伸出他的手,大叫道:“奥斯本先生,奥斯本先生!”奥斯本却没有一点要和他握手的意思;只是一再

with another curse to his servant to drive on.

Dobbin laid his hand on the carriage side. 'I will see you, sir,' he said. 'I have a message for you.'

'From that woman?' said Osborne, fiercely.

'No,' replied the other, 'from your son;' at which Osborne fell back into the corner of his carriage, and Dobbin allowing it to pass on, rode close behind it, and so through the town until they reached Mr. Osborne's hotel, and without a word. There he followed Osborne up to his apartments. George had often been in the rooms; they were the lodgings which the Crawleys had occupied during their stay in Brussels.

'Pray, have you any commands for me, Captain Dobbin, or, I beg your pardon, I should say MAJOR Dobbin, since better men than you are dead, and you step into their SHOES?' said Mr. Osborne, in that sarcastic tone which he sometimes was pleased to assume.

'Better men ARE dead,' Dobbin replied. 'I want to speak to you about one.'

'Make it short, sir,' said the other with an oath, scowling at his visitor.

'I am here as his closest friend,' the Major resumed, 'and the executor of his will. He made it before he went into action. Are you aware how small his means are, and of the straitened circumstances of his widow?'

'I don't know his widow, sir,' Osborne said. 'Let her go back to her father.' But the gentleman whom he addressed was determined to remain in good temper, and went on without heeding the interruption. 'Do you know, sir, Mrs. Osborne's condition? Her life and her reason almost have been shaken by the blow which has fallen on her. It is very doubtful whether she will rally. There is a chance left for her, however, and it is about this I came to speak to you. She will be a mother soon. Will you visit the parent's offence upon the child's head? or will you forgive the child for poor George's sake?'

Osborne broke out into a rhapsody of self-praise

地咒骂着让仆人快点走。

都宾把他的手放在车厢上说道：“我想让你明白，我给你捎了一个口信。”

奥斯本严厉地说：“是来自那个女人吗？”

“不是，”另外一个人回答，“从你的儿子那里。”奥斯本听到这些，一下子倒在了马车的角落里。都宾让车子先走，自己紧紧地跟在后面。马车就这样穿过小镇，在他们抵达奥斯本住的旅馆前，都宾一句话也没有说，他跟随随着奥斯本先生走到了他的公寓里。这些房子原来是克劳莱夫妇在布鲁塞尔的时候占用过的，以前乔治经常呆在那些屋子里。

奥斯本用一种讽刺的语气说，那是他时不时挖苦别人的语气：“不知有何请教啊？请说吧，都宾上尉。或者，请原谅，我本来应该称呼你都宾少佐才是吧。因为比你好的人死了，你也就穿上了他们的鞋子。”

都宾回答说：“有很多比我好的都死了。我想要跟你说的是其中的一个。”

另外一个人诅咒了一句，闷闷不乐地看着来访者说：“请简短一些。”

少佐说：“我来这儿是作为他最亲近的朋友，又是他愿望的执行人。他在上战场之前写下了这些。你知道他留下的东西是多么少吗，你知道他妻子的生活是多么困难吗？”

奥斯本说：“我不认识他的寡妇，让她回到她父亲那里去吧。”但是和他讲话的那位绅士打定了主意不生气，所以他也就不在意他的打岔，他继续说：“您知道吗？先生，奥斯本太太的状况？她所有的生命和理智，都被这个突然落在她身上的打击击碎了。这是十分令人怀疑的，她究竟是不是能够再振作起来。现在只有一个希望，这正是我过来准备跟你说的事情。她很快就要成为一个母亲了。您是准备让那个孩子替他的父亲受过呢，还是你看在可怜的乔治的面上原谅了他？”

奥斯本突然狂乱地一口气说了一大堆

and imprecations; — by the first, excusing himself to his own conscience for his conduct; by the second, exaggerating the undutifulness of George. No father in all England could have behaved more generously to a son, who had rebelled against him wickedly. He had died without even so much as confessing he was wrong. Let him take the consequences of his undutifulness and folly. As for himself, Mr. Osborne, he was a man of his word. He had sworn never to speak to that woman, or to recognize her as his son's wife. 'And that's what you may tell her,' he concluded with an oath; 'and that's what I will stick to to the last day of my life.'

There was no hope from that quarter then. The widow must live on her slender pittance, or on such aid as Jos could give her. 'I might tell her, and she would not heed it,' thought Dobbin, sadly: for the poor girl's thoughts were not here at all since her catastrophe, and, stupefied under the pressure of her sorrow, good and evil were alike indifferent to her.

So, indeed, were even friendship and kindness. She received them both uncomplainingly, and having accepted them, relapsed into her grief.

Suppose some twelve months after the above conversation took place to have passed in the life of our poor Amelia. She has spent the first portion of that time in a sorrow so profound and pitiable, that we who have been watching and describing some of the emotions of that weak and tender heart, must draw back in the presence of the cruel grief under which it is bleeding. Tread silently round the hapless couch of the poor prostrate soul. Shut gently the door of the dark chamber wherein she suffers, as those kind people did who nursed her through the first months of her pain, and never left her until heaven had sent her consolation.

A day came — of almost terrified delight and wonder — when the poor widowed girl pressed a child upon her breast — a child, with the eyes of George who was gone — a little boy, as beautiful as a cherub. What a miracle it was to hear its first

话,都是咒骂儿子赞扬自己的,首先,他为自己的行为辩解;然后,夸大乔治的不顺从。他说在全英国再也找不到一个比他对儿子更宽大的父亲了,他的儿子如此固执地反对他,甚至到死也没有向他的父亲认错,让他去承受他的不顺从和愚蠢的后果吧。至于他自己,奥斯本是一个说到做到的人;他已经发誓说不会和那个女人说话,或者承认她是他儿子的妻子,“并且,你可以告诉她,”他咒骂了一声结束了自己的谈话:“我会坚持到我生命的最后一天的。”

这样看来是没有一丁点的希望了。那个寡妇必须依靠她微薄的收入生活,或者乔斯能够给她提供一些帮助。都宾悲哀地想着:“我可以跟她说,她不会在意的。”自从灾难降临之后,那个可怜的女孩一直心神不安,在悲痛的压力下,她几乎已经麻木了,好东西和坏东西对于她同样是无关紧要的。

因此,对于大家善意的帮助,她也漠然视之。她接受好意时无动于衷,过后便再次陷入悲痛之中。

在上面的谈话结束以后,又过了十二个月,我们可怜的爱丽亚又大了一岁。刚开始的时候,她悲痛欲绝,大部分时间都处于悲伤之中。我们本来注视着她们,也曾经描述过她那脆弱的心里的感受,但是我们又怎能残忍地揭开她那流血的心呢!你在经过这个可怜的灵魂的身边时,请轻轻地走。当她在里面受苦的时候,请你把窗帘拉上,请你把那个黑暗的房间的们轻轻地关上吧。仁慈的人在那段痛苦的日子里时刻守着她,从来没有丢开她,一直到上帝给她送来了一些新的安慰之后。

那一天终于来了,当那个可怜的年轻寡妇把一个孩子紧紧地抱在胸前的时候,人们都从心底里高兴。一个孩子,有着一双已故的乔治一样的眼睛,一个小男孩,和小天使一样美丽。当她听见他的第一声

cry! How she laughed and wept over it — how love, and hope, and prayer woke again in her bosom as the baby nestled there. She was safe. The doctors who attended her, and had feared for her life or for her brain, had waited anxiously for this crisis before they could pronounce that either was secure. It was worth the long months of doubt and dread which the persons who had constantly been with her had passed, to see her eyes once more beaming tenderly upon them.

Our friend Dobbin was one of them. It was he who brought her back to England and to her mother's house; when Mrs. O'Dowd, receiving a peremptory summons from her Colonel, had been forced to quit her patient. To see Dobbin holding the infant, and to hear Amelia's laugh of triumph as she watched him, would have done any man good who had a sense of humour. William was the godfather of the child, and exerted his ingenuity in the purchase of cups, spoons, pap-boats, and corals for this little Christian.

How his mother nursed him, and dressed him, and lived upon him; how she drove away all nurses, and would scarce allow any hand but her own to touch him; how she considered that the greatest favour she could confer upon his godfather, Major Dobbin, was to allow the Major occasionally to dandle him, need not be told here. This child was her being. Her existence was a maternal caress. She enveloped the feeble and unconscious creature with love and worship. It was her life which the baby drank in from her bosom.

Of nights, and when alone, she had stealthy and intense raptures of motherly love, such as God's marvellous care has awarded to the female instinct — joys how far higher and lower than reason — blind beautiful devotions which only women's hearts know. It was William Dobbin's task to muse upon these movements of Amelia's, and to watch her heart; and if his love made him divine almost all the

啼哭时,这是一个多么大的奇迹啊!她是怎样的抱着孩子哭泣着、微笑着;当那个孩子偎依在她的胸前时,多少爱、多少希望又在她心里重新升起,她又能祈祷了。这样她也就脱离了险境。给她看病的医生和护士都害怕她会大脑失常,或是有生命危险,于是就期待着这个时刻的到来,因为如果过不了这一关,他们也就无能为力了。那些忠心伺候她的人一直都为她担心,当又一次看见她那温柔的笑容的时候,他们觉得这些付出是值得的,都打心眼里感到高兴。

我们的朋友都宾就是其中之一。当奥多太太从她的丈夫奥多陆军上校那里得到一个务必回家的命令后,她被迫离开了她的朋友爱米丽亚。正是都宾把她带回了英国并把她送到她妈妈的房子里。只要有一点善心的人,看见都宾手里捧着那个小婴儿,爱米丽亚高兴地微笑着,他们就会感到很高兴。威廉·都宾是那个孩子的教父,在为那个小基督教徒买茶杯、勺子、奶瓶,还有用珊瑚做的小玩意时,他着实花了一番工夫。

他的母亲是怎样护理他的,怎样给他穿衣服的,她只为他活着。她是怎样把所有的护士都赶开的,几乎不允许除了她以外的任何人用手去触摸他。她偶尔允许儿子的教父都宾少佐抱着他逗他玩,就好像是给都宾了一个天大的面子,这些在这儿就不必再多说了。这个孩子就是她的一切,她活着就是为了抚养儿子。她非常喜爱那个脆弱的、没有一点意识的小东西,把他当作神一样地崇拜。当她给儿子喂奶的时候,简直把她的全部生命都给了他。

到了晚上,当她一个人的时候,她就有一种强烈的母爱。这就是上天奇妙的安排,这是女人天性里面深藏着的远远超乎理性,而又几乎没有理性的喜悦。这是一种盲目的爱,这是仅仅只有女性的心灵才能明白的!这时威廉·都宾的任务就是深思爱米丽亚的这些动作,研究她的内心世界。如果他的爱能够使他变得神圣,那么

feelings which agitated it, alas! he could see with a fatal perspicuity that there was no place there for him. And so, gently, he bore his fate, knowing it, and content to bear it.

I suppose Amelia's father and mother saw through the intentions of the Major, and were not ill-disposed to encourage him; for Dobbin visited their house daily, and stayed for hours with them, or with Amelia, or with the honest landlord, Mr. Clapp, and his family. He brought, on one pretext or another, presents to everybody, and almost every day; and went, with the landlord's little girl, who was rather a favourite with Amelia, by the name of Major Sugarplums.

It was this little child who commonly acted as mistress of the ceremonies to introduce him to Mrs. Osborne. She laughed one day when Major Sugarplums' cab drove up to Fulham, and he descended from it, bringing out a wooden horse, a drum, a trumpet, and other warlike toys, for little Georgy, who was scarcely six months old, and for whom the articles in question were entirely premature.

The child was asleep. 'Hush,' said Amelia, annoyed, perhaps, at the creaking of the Major's boots; and she held out her hand; smiling because William could not take it until he had rid himself of his cargo of toys. 'Go downstairs, little Mary,' said he presently to the child, 'I want to speak to Mrs. Osborne.' She looked up rather astonished, and laid down the infant on its bed.

'I am come to say good-bye, Amelia,' said he, taking her slender little white hand gently.

'Good-bye? and where are you going?' she said, with a smile.

'Send the letters to the agents,' he said; 'they will forward them; for you will write to me, won't you? I shall be away a long time.'

'I'll write to you about Georgy,' she said. 'Dear William, how good you have been to him and to me. Look at him. Isn't he like an angel?'

他就会很明白,那儿没有给他留一点的位置。就是因为这样,使他真切地认识到了自己的命运,他十分地明白,但是他却非常乐意接受这种命运。

我想爱米丽亚的父母也许看穿了少佐的打算,他们十分愿意鼓励他。因为都宾每一天都要来他们家进行拜访,并且经常都要和他们在一起呆上好几个小时,有时和他们在一起,有时和爱米丽亚在一块,或者和那个诚实的房东——克拉浦先生和他家里的人在一起。他总是找出种种借口给每一个人送礼物,几乎每一天都是这样。房东的小女儿,她相当受爱米丽亚的喜欢,都给宾起了一个名字叫糖子儿少佐。

每一次都是这个作为礼仪司仪的小孩领着都宾去见奥斯本太太的。有一天,当她看见糖子儿少佐的出租马车来到福兰时,她忍不住笑了起来,他从车上走了下来,拿出一个木马、一个鼓、一个喇叭以及别的玩具,全是送给乔杰的。他几乎还没有六个月大,这些东西对他来说确实是太早了一些。

那个小孩儿睡着了,当爱米丽亚听见少佐的靴子那叽叽嘎嘎的声音的时候,她也许有一点厌烦,说道:“安静!”她把手伸出来,但是威廉先生只能把那些玩具都放下来才能和她拉手,她微笑了起来。过了一会儿都宾对那个孩子说:“到楼下去吧,小玛丽,我想和奥斯本太太说几句话呢。”爱米丽亚相当惊异地抬起头看着他,把那个婴儿放在床上。

他轻轻地拉着她那瘦瘦的、小小的、白白的手说:“爱米丽亚,我是来和你说再见的。”

她面带微笑地说:“再见?你准备去哪个地方?”

他说:“把信送给那些代理人,他们会转交给我的。因为你一定会写信给我的,是吗?我将离开好长时间。”

她说:“我打算把有关乔杰的事情都写信告诉你,亲爱的威廉,你对他和我是多么的亲切啊。看看他!难道他不像一个小

The little pink hands of the child closed mechanically round the honest soldier's finger, and Amelia looked up in his face with bright maternal pleasure. The cruellest looks could not have wounded him more than that glance of hopeless kindness. He bent over the child and mother. He could not speak for a moment. And it was only with all his strength that he could force himself to say a God bless you. 'God bless you,' said Amelia, and held up her face and kissed him.

'Hush! Don't wake Georgy!' she added, as William Dobbin went to the door with heavy steps. She did not hear the noise of his cab-wheels as he drove away: she was looking at the child, who was laughing in his sleep.

天使吗?"

那个孩子粉红的小手机械地抓住了那个诚实的军官的手指头,爱米丽亚满脸都是做母亲的喜悦,抬起头来看着他的脸。她那温柔的眼神让人心碎,哪怕是最残忍的表情也不会让他比这更伤心。他有好多一会不能说话,用尽所有的力量才强迫着自己说了一句“上帝会祝福你的!”爱米丽亚说:“上帝也会祝福你的!”然后她又抬起脸并且吻了他一下。

当威廉踏着沉重的步子往大门口走去的时候,她又说了一句:“安静!不要把乔杰弄醒了!”她没有听见他离开时车轮的声音。她的孩子在睡梦中微笑着,她正看着那个孩子。

CHAPTER XXXVI

How to Live Well on Nothing a Year

I suppose there is no man in this Vanity Fair of ours so little observant as not to think sometimes about the worldly affairs of his acquaintances, or so extremely charitable as not to wonder how his neighbour Jones, or his neighbour Smith, can make both ends meet at the end of the year. With the utmost regard for the family, for instance (for I dine with them twice or thrice in the season), I cannot but own that the appearance of the Jenkinsons in the park, in the large barouche with the grenadier-footmen, will surprise and mystify me to my dying day: for though I know the equipage is only jobbed, and all the Jenkins people are on board wages, yet those three men and the carriage must represent an expense of six hundred a year at the very least -- and then there are the splendid dinners, the two boys at Eton, the prize governess and masters for the girls, the trip abroad, or to Eastbourne or Worthing, in the autumn, the annual ball with a supper from Gunter's (who, by the way, supplies most of the first-rate dinners which J. gives, as I know very well, having been invited to, one of them to fill a vacant place, when I saw at once that these repasts are very superior to the common run of entertainments for which the humbler sort of J.'s acquaintances get cards) -- who, I say, with the most good-natured feelings in the world, can help wondering how the Jenkinsons make out matters? What is Jenkins?

We all know -- Commissioner of the Tape and Sealing Wax Office, with 1200 pounds a year for a salary. Had his wife a private fortune? Pooh! -- Miss Flint -- one of eleven children of a small squire in Buckinghamshire. All she ever gets from

第三十六章

一年没有收入， 怎样生活

我想，在这个名利场上，任何人都不会对自己的朋友熟人的生活漠不关心，无论他的胸怀多么宽广，只要想到他的邻居琼斯或是斯密士这样的人，到了年终，收入和支出竟然能够持平，总会禁不住吃惊。举一个例子来说，在社交季节里面，我总要和琴根士他们一起吃上两顿或者三顿饭，但是我不承认，当我看到琴根士家的大马车在公园里出现，那个身材像掷弹兵一般高大的身穿制服的仆人走在旁边时，我总免不了会吃惊，因为我明白那辆大马车仅仅是租来的。并且所有琴根士的佣人都是拿了工资自理伙食，但是这三个男佣人和那辆马车一年最少也得花去六百镑。然而他们又常常请客，酒菜都十分丰盛；那两个男孩都在伊顿公学上学，家里还为女孩们另外请了一流的保姆和家庭教师。在秋季里，他们去国外旅游，或者去伊斯脱波恩，或者到窝丁；每一年都要举行一次舞会，酒席都是到根脱饭馆预定的。顺便说一下，琴根士请客用的酒席大多数都让他们预备。因为有一次我被他们临时拉去充数，吃的喝的讲究极了，远远超过他们招待那些普通的客人时所置办的酒席。我说，即使你是这个世界上最马虎的人，你也免不了产生怀疑，不知道是怎么回事。究竟琴根士是什么人呢？

我们都知道，他是照例行文局办公室的文员，年薪一千二百镑。他的妻子很富有吗？呸！她姓弗灵脱，是那十一个孩子中的一个，她的父亲是白金汉郡的小乡绅。她在圣诞节里从她的家里得到的所有

her family is a turkey at Christmas, in exchange for which she has to board two or three of her sisters in the off season, and lodge and feed her brothers when they come to town. How does Jenkins balance his income? I say, as every friend of his must say, How is it that he has not been outlawed long since, and that he ever came back (as he did to the surprise of everybody) last year from Boulogne?

'I' is here introduced to personify the world in general — the Mrs. Grundy of each respected reader's private circle — every one of whom can point to some families of his acquaintance who live nobody knows how. Many a glass of wine have we all of us drunk, I have very little doubt, hob — and — nobbing with the hospitable giver and wondering how the deuce he paid for it.

Some three or four years after his stay in Paris, when Rawdon Crawley and his wife were established in a very small comfortable house in Curzon Street, May Fair, there was scarcely one of the numerous friends whom they entertained at dinner that did not ask the above question regarding them. The novelist, it has been said before, knows everything, and as I am in a situation to be able to tell the public how Crawley and his wife lived without any income, may I entreat the public newspapers which are in the habit of extracting portions of the various periodical works now published not to reprint the following exact narrative and calculations — of which I ought, as the discoverer (and at some expense, too), to have the benefit?

My son, I would say, were I blessed with a child — you may by deep inquiry and constant intercourse with him learn how a man lives comfortably on nothing a year. But it is best not to be intimate with gentlemen of this profession and to take the calculations at second hand, as you do logarithms, for to work them yourself, depend upon it, will cost you something considerable.

On nothing per annum then, and during a course of some two or three years, of which we can afford to give but a very brief history, Crawley and his wife

的礼物是一只火鸡,她必须在社交淡季,为两三个姐妹提供食宿,并且当她的弟兄们来到这个小镇上时,她还得给他们提供吃住。琴根士到底怎么撑起这个场面的?我说,他的每一个朋友都会说:“他怎么能够到现在为止还在外逃亡呢,去年他怎么会从波涅涅回来呢?”他所做的一切使每一个人都十分惊奇。

这里所说的“我”,代表世界上大多数的人,也可以说代表了读者中像葛伦地太太这样的普通人。这种不知道靠什么生活的人,我们大家都见过。毫不怀疑,我们都和这些好客的主人一起吃喝过,一面喝着他的葡萄酒,一面捉摸着他是怎样付款的。

当他们在巴黎呆了三年或者四年之后,罗登·克劳莱和他的妻子在梅飞厄克生街一所舒适的小房子里建立了他们的家庭。在他们家作客的大多数朋友,无不在考虑他们的家庭收入来源。以前曾经提到过小说家是知道所有的事情的,所以我可以告诉公众,克劳莱和他的妻子没有一点收入是怎样生活的。我恳求那些报纸和编辑先生们,一定要把我这篇资料和数据十分精确的文章抄下来。我之所以发现其中的内情,也付出了一些代价,难道不应该得到一些收益吗?

如果我有幸有个儿子,我会对我的儿子说——如果你想知道那些一点收入都没有的人为什么会过得那么舒服,你就要经常和他们交往并且不断地向他们询问。但是最好不要和这些家伙们结交,如果需要资料,可以从别人那里打听。你要知道,如果你自己去调查的话,还得花费不少钱呢!

在这一段没有一点收入的时间里,克劳莱和他的妻子十分快乐和幸福地生活在巴黎,这些我们只能简单提一下。就在那