popular movement, a political upheaval, had no attraction for her. The private life of the middle-class people among whom she lived was her only material. So scrupulously did she avoid the exceptional in episode or character, so studiously shun dramatic surprise, that her capacity for investing her lengthy narratives with interest seems marvellous. During the twenty years of her literary life her style knew neither development nor deterioration. It was always absolutely fitted to her theme. Her world was commonplace, rather shallow; living always in awe of the neighbors' opinions; mostly prone to trivial decelts, hypocrisy and spite, not largely loving or sympathetic. Miss Austen saw it, saw through it and laughed at it, showed it all up with keen but not unkindly satire. Modern enthusiasts for realism declare that Jane Austen alone has achieved that in English fiction, but it is wise to remember her limitation, the regions of actual life of thought and feelings which she neither could nor would touch. Perhaps no one of her novels is really better than another. They are all good, with the same characteristics. 823.74.

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