

of all that is human or divine, and in her novels we read her solution of the great moral and social problems that naturally presented themselves to such a mind. And first let us consider briefly the teachings in some of the earlier works.

Who that has once read the "Scenes of Clerical Life," can forget the impression made by the pathetic narrative of Milly Barton, whose life to its sad end breathed out an influence of patient sweetness, which reaches us with the same delicate power as if it came from a living presence, instead of from the printed page. Notice, too, for a moment, the lesson of simple, earnest piety, which we find in the homely history of Mr. Tryan, the persecuted evangelical parson. Follow the account of his humiliations and sorrows, his faithfulness under trial, his unflinching courage, and the forgiving spirit in which he came to Janet Dempster, bringing words of help and assurance, repeating to her with saintly fervor the old, sweet story of Christ's compassion, and power to save from sin. Such lives as these are plain, practical object lessons on the modest virtues enjoined by our Christian faith—unselfishness, true-heartedness, fidelity to duty.

George Eliot inculcates many a worthy precept regarding the relationships of life. She teaches a vigorous morality and a pure system of ethics. In respect of family relations her teachings are rigidly correct. Her pictures of true home life are full of sweetness, while the wretchedness resulting from licentiousness, she holds to view in a light which shows forth the sin as utterly loathsome. The duties and obligations of wedded life, she dwells upon with reiterant earnestness. Recall the fervid words of Savonarola to Romola, in bitter desperation forsaking her home and Florence: "And now, when the sword has pierced your soul, you say, 'I will go away; I cannot bear my sorrow.' And you think nothing of the sorrow and the wrong that are within the walls of the city where you dwell: you will leave your place empty, when it ought to be filled with your pity and your labor. * * * * My daughter, if the cross comes to you as a wife, you must carry it as a wife. You may say, 'I will leave my husband,' but you cannot cease to be a wife." Again, "Marriage is not carnal only—it is a sacramental vow, from which none but God can release you."