

in this book,—all notes of despair, for his realism paints the darker shades of human life and character; his sensualism confesses that the animal in man is still superior to the mind; and his pessimism declares that circumstance, fate, or what you will, is still stronger than human skill or human endeavor.

It must be admitted that the sensualism of the book is offensive. True, sensualism is the theme; but it need not have been made so shockingly prominent. While Jude is preparing for college, he accidentally meets a young girl, whom he soon marries. Here is the description of the girl: "She was a fine dark-eyed girl, not exactly handsome, but capable of passing as such at a little distance, despite some coarseness of skin and fibre. She had a round and prominent bosom, full lips, perfect teeth, and the rich complexion of a Cochin's egg. She was a complete and substantial female human, no more, no less." These are illustrations that can be quoted; others, more direct and much more gross, I refrain from citing.

The realism is equally prominent with the sensualism. Arabella Donn, Jude's wife to be, scrapes an acquaintance with him by throwing a piece of pig's offal at him. Their intimacy receives a considerable impetus while the two, a short time later, chase a pig that has escaped from Arabella's guardianship. When they marry, a source of income is hoped for from a pig which they fatten during the autumn. The killing of this pig is the theme of one chapter, and the author shows a master's skill in elevating this ignoble scene into the domain of the tragic, and making it a factor in the disagreement that finally separates husband and wife. The boiling of the water, the catching of the pig, hoisting him on his back, scraping off the bristles, plunging in the knife, and the attendant squealing of the unhappy victim, all are depicted with studious attention to details.

After Jude had been some time at Oxford, battling with all sorts of discouragements, he wrote letters to the heads of various colleges in that city, stating his difficulties and asking their advice. He received one reply, as follows: "I have read your letter with interest; and, judging from your description of yourself as a workingman I venture to think that you will have a much better chance of success in life by remaining in your own sphere and sticking to your trade, than by adopting any other course. That, therefore, is what I advise you to do." On the strength of this "terribly sensible advice," Jude got drunk.

This selection and presentation of the discouraging elements in the common unidealized life of humanity is what constitutes the