

I know where to find it, I would rather have established myself at the inn kept by Mr. Boniface, and so famous for its ale in Farquhar's time." Gossip and gait, the poor man's arena and the "breathing-time of day" of genius, thus give to the inn a kind of human scope. Beethoven, wearied of his palace-home and courtly patronage, and the "stately houses open to him in town and country, often forsook all for solitude in obscure inns, escaping from all conventionalities to be alone with himself." "*Nous voyons*," says Brillat-Savarin, "*que les villageois font toutes les affaires au cabaret*;" Rousseau delighted in the frugal liberty thereof; and the last days of Elia are associated with the inn which was the goal of his daily promenade. "After Isola married," writes one of his friends, "and Mary was infirm, he took his lonely walk along the London road, as far as the 'Bell of Edmonton;' and one day tripped over a stone and slightly wounded his forehead; erysipelas set in, and he died." Somewhat of the attractiveness of the inn to the philosopher is that its temporary and casual shelter and solace accord with the counsel of Sydney Smith, "to take short views," and Goëthe's, to "cast ourselves into the sea of accidents;" and a less amiable reason for the partiality has been suggested in "the wide capability of finding fault which an inn affords."

The beautiful significance of the first incident in the life of Christ is seldom realized, offering, as it does, so wonderful and affecting a contrast between the humblest mortal vicissitudes in the outward circumstances of birth and the highest glory of a spiritual advent: they "laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." It was to an inn that the Good Samaritan carried the traveller who had "fallen among thieves." Joseph's brethren rested at an inn on their way to Egypt; and it was at the "Three Taverns," in the suburbs of Rome, that Paul was met by the brethren. Venerable as are these allusions in sacred history, the visible token of the antiquity of inns that strikes our imagination most vividly is the wine-stains on the marble counter in Pompeii.

