

An emotional two or a temperamental four is outside the range of Stahl's comprehension. I always feel that Stahl is a conglomerate, you cannot separate the ingredients of his character, they are all bound together in one solid mass. Your true artist must always have a deep sympathy with humanity, because he sees himself continually in the men and women he meets. And don't you see that this is because he has the faculty—which Stahl has not—of separating his ingredients as it were, of being able to call up any side of his character at will—or, if you prefer it, of surrendering himself to any of his emotions—and allowing one side of him to dominate his sensations for a time? It is that which gives him the power of understanding other men's weakness and strength; he has all their potentialities, and can develop them separately by the power of his imagination. Put it this way: a genius can weigh human nature because he is so delicately balanced; Stahl, never, because he is so rigid."

If Morpeth had needed any confirmation of his theory, he might have found it in the criticisms of his hearers, themselves grown too rusty at the mental hinge to respond to the theory put forward.

3.

Jacob had none of his brother's talent for application. It is true that his early training encouraged him in a habit of idleness, but the effect of training on character is merely that of development. There was a bias in Jacob's mind that no amount of education would have counteracted, just as in the case of Eric there was a combination that had no solvent. In the case of these two boys, it so chanced that each, by force of circumstances, fell under the influences best calculated to exaggerate his natural bent. If their positions had been reversed, the career of each would have been different—potentialities would have remained undeveloped, inclinations arrested, lesser powers encouraged—but no training could have produced in Jacob his brother's love of application, nor would the lack of opportunity have frustrated Eric's devotion to work.