

cisely the same in each. Dinah preached on Hayslope Green; Elizabeth on Roston Green, where the Donnithorne arms still hang out. It was even said that the prayer used by Dinah in the cell of Hetty Sorrel had really been composed by Elizabeth for a young woman who was condemned to death for the murder of her child, and actually executed, and in whose cell she remained, praying with her and comforting her to the last. Adam and Seth Bede were also recognized as the portraits of well known men, whose real names were William and Samuel Evans. The natural inference drawn from the magazine articles in which the true story of "Adam Bede" is assumed to be told, was that the characters so graphically described in the novel, and bearing what was then known to be George Eliot's family name, must have been relatives of the author, with whose lives she had been intimately acquainted. However, George Eliot has declared that "Dinah Morris was not intended to be a representation of Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, and that any identification of the two, or of any other characters in 'Adam Bede' with real persons, must be protested against, as not only false in fact, and tending to perpetuate false notions about art, but also as a gross breach of social decorum."

But in spite of this protest, the people of Wirsbworth persisted in identifying the characters in "Adam Bede" with those who so closely resembled them in real life. A tablet was put up in Wirsbworth Methodist Church to commemorate the religious labours of Elizabeth Evans and her husband, and the inscription stated that Elizabeth was "known to the world as Dinah Morris."

Mary Ann Evans, "George Eliot," was born on the 22nd of November, 1820, at Griff, near Nuneaton, in the land of Shakspeare, "the heart of England." Like Shakspeare, and

more exclusively than he, "George Eliot" sprang from "the people." Shakspeare had gentle blood in his veins through his mother with the sweet poetical name, but George Eliot's rich genius owed nothing to any aristocratic element in its making. What professes to be an authentic account tells us that her father, Robert Evans, was bred a carpenter, had a talent for building, and the management of land, learned surveying, and became bailiff on Mr. Newdigate's property in Warwickshire. He was a man of great integrity and worth, esteemed and respected by all who knew him, and after a time raised himself to the position of land agent for four estates in Warwickshire. His character has been lovingly depicted in "Caleb Garth," his pure, single-minded integrity, his gentle benevolence, his delight in thorough conscientious work, and no doubt his circumstances and manner of life, with, of course, such differences as artistic needs require. In all sincere and earnest writing which deals with the inner life of men and women, their thoughts and emotions, and the circumstances which influence them for good or evil and shape their destinies, there must always be more or less of a biographical element, however skilfully disguised, and we cannot doubt that George Eliot's strong and powerful idiosyncrasy continually depicts itself in her works. But though something of her early life may be shewn in Mary Garth, it is in Maggie Tulliver we must look for a portrait of her inner nature. The child-life of Maggie and Tom has a touch of truth beyond the reach of art; and that the love of the little sister is no feigning, but a true thing, is set above questioning by the series of sonnets published in the volume entitled "The Legend of Jubal, and other Poems," in which she describes the affection felt by a little girl for her brother, looking back at it