

to the nature of the man. The virility that he puts into his stories is one of his own characteristics.

In "The Road" he gives us an insight into his early life. His was no path of roses, but a long, steep climb, which called all his strength into play. His delight in overcoming obstacles, whether organic or inorganic, is so real because he joyed in doing so.

His work lacks polish and technique. After he has sketched in the important things he doesn't go back to fill in the details. His greatest work, for which he will be remembered, consists of stories done with the broad free treatment.

During his short life, Jack London tried many kinds of writing and the portrayal of many characters. He is most successful, because most natural in his short stories. These are often taken from his own experience, and written while yet the tang of the excitement remains and the colors glow in his memory.

His characters are alike in type but have individuality. The only type he can handle well is the type he knows and has lived among. When he attempts to portray the man of the Indoor world, he is in the realm of the unknown, and has to draw on his imagination, so that the character fails to carry conviction.

In depicting women he has failed to produce any great character. Even in the "Little Lady of the Big House," whose central figure is supposed to be a woman, the man makes the deeper impression on the mind of the reader. He has failed to grasp the soul of womanhood except in a few lightning flashes, when he draws some woman of the "Lower Half."

In his "Star Rover" is seen a departure towards a new line. What he might have done had not death stayed his hand we will never know. Although he died at the age of forty, and wrote during only half of his life, he leaves us thirty-three volumes. Evidently he preferred to leave his stories unpolished and begin a fresh tale, to spending his time on procuring added finish of style.

The "Call of the Wild," which made him well known, is one of the best dog stories ever written.