A DOUBLE AFFAIR

Hamish Hamilton, 1957

(Jane le Cluse, June & Geoffrey Cox, Thelma Bignell, Penny Aldred)

Chapter One

5 The Thunderer: The Times
"presently gone" - archaic use of presently meaning immediately

6 Lawk a mercy-on-me, this is none of I: Mother Goose, The Old Woman and the Pedlar.

8 Madame Sartoria Sartorial = pertaining to a tailor, or clothes.

10 Je connais par coeur le corps de Mme Mérimanne: I know Miss Merriman’s body by heart. (ie size and shape).

11 as well as could be expected: usually the answer when a person asks after someone who is ill, rather than someone who is planning a wedding.

12 Youth must be served: “Youth will be served, every dog has his day, and mine has been a fine one”, George Borrow, Lavengro.

20 Sheepshanks = Woolworths
Gaiters Circulating Library = Boots the Chemists, who had circulating libraries until the mid-20th century.

Happy and unhappy far-off days and things that were no more: “Will no-one tell me what she sings? Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow/for old, unhappy, far-off things.” Wordsworth, The Solitary Reaper.

Throne speaking to a Throne: “A Nation spoke to a Nation,/A Throne spoke to a Throne”, Kipling, Our Lady of the Snows,(referring to the Canadian Preferential Tariff, 1897. Frequently used by AT.
The precedent of Sarah: Abraham’s wife who was long past the age of child-bearing. Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born.

21 Rory-Tory boy: tory-rory, according to the Merriam Webster dictionary is "roistering; uproarious"
Piano nobile: the main floor of a building, usually the first floor, especially in Venetian palaces, where the ground floor was likely to be damp!


The Daily Runner: The Daily Express

As pleased as Punch: Mr Punch [Punch & Judy] is greatly delighted and always singing with self satisfaction at the success of his rascally ways. [*Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase & Fable*]

Jacquerie: Peasant uprising in France, 1358.

As bold as brass: Downright impudent; without modesty. Brazen faced is a similar saying.

Doing his pools: Football pools; predicting the outcome of games of football and betting on it usually done via a form and the postal system. This was legal betting at a time when most betting was illegal. In season or out of season: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine".

Prince Giglio: W M Thackeray, *The Rose and the Ring or the History of Prince Giglio and Prince Bulbo.*

Chapter Two

His affianced: AT frequently comments disparagingly on the use of “fiancé” or “fiancée”, using affianced or betrothed instead. tempus does fuge; Cannot find which comedian used to say this.

Arundel prints: Between 1848 and 1897 The Arundel Society issued prints of works by the old masters, taken from specially commissioned watercolour copies, 300 of which are now in the V&A. AT often refers to them hanging in vicarage drawing-rooms. There are some at Downe House, home of Charles Darwin

Gregorovius: 19th c. German historian, specialised in mediaeval Rome

Prodigal Son: having squandered all his money, lived on husks meant for pigs to eat, then was given a feast by his father on his return home. *Luke 15. 11-32*

To sit up for him. Presumably a reveller doesn’t appreciate members of his household knowing what time he comes home.

Caused those behind to cry Forward and those in front cry Back: “But those behind cried 'Forward!' And those before cried 'Back!' *Macaulay, Lays of Ancient Rome, How Horatius Kept the Bridge.*

Noises Off: Stage direction. Michael Frayn’s play of that name was not written until 1982.

Of a Quixotic nature: idealistic without regard to practicality, from Cervantes *Don Quixote*

Simony: buying or selling of ecclesiastical preferments, benefices etc, named from Simon Magnus, *Acts 8 14-24*

Mea maxima culpa: through my most grievous fault.. From Confession in the Roman Catholic Mass.
An act of glad confident courage: is this connected with “never glad confident morning again”, from Robert Browning’s The Lost Leader?

Scarlet Pimpernel: novel by Baroness Orczy, set at the time of the French Revolution

Eliot, Middlemarch, and Eliot who wrote about religious things: Middlemarch is a novel by George Eliot, while TS Eliot wrote Murder in the Cathedral, about the murder of Sir Thomas Becket

Becket seven feet high: He is certainly known to have been tall, possibly around six feet, which in the 12th century was considered to be very tall indeed.

League of Church Helpers: probably a made up title, or could be 19th century

I am hiding in thee: ‘Thou blest Rock of ages,/I’m hiding in thee’, from the hymn, ‘O safe to the Rock that is higher than I’, William O Cushing and Ira David Sankey, NOT AM Toplady’s ‘Rock of Ages, cleft for me/Let me hide myself in thee’.

Hobgoblin = Sprite. Austin Healey ‘Sprite’, 1952

Dancing with tears in my eyes: No 1 hit song in 1930.

Four-wheeler and fogs: mix of 18th and 19th century

Brave New World: Aldous Huxley’s novel was published in 1931

Post hoc ergo propter hoc: logical fallacy – after, therefore because of
Tertium quid: A third thing that is indefinite and undefined but is related to two definite or known things – from late Latin, translation of Greek triton ti = some third thing.

If there were a garden path here, I would sit down on it: Betsey Trotwood in David Copperfield sat down in surprise when David turned up at her house. Frequently alluded to by AT.

Brigade: The Brigade of Guards.

Ouida: 19thC romantic novelist

If it prove a girl, the boy/Will have plenty; so let it be: Tennyson indeed, in Maud.

Lord Burleigh’s nod: Lord Burleigh, chief minister of Elizabeth I, is a character in Sheridan’s play ‘The Critic’, where he enters, preoccupied by affairs of state, shakes his head and exits. This shake gave rise to the expression “Burleigh’s nod”.

Démédoé: out of date, (lit. out of fashion)

Circumambient is an elaborate way of saying surrounding. Is this a quotation? I’ve found a few examples, the most likely seems to be “Out in the circumambient air/With grateful yelps he flew”, from The Ballad of the Taylor Pup, by the American humorist Eugene Field.

The Shop: Nickname for the military establishment for training officers, at Woolwich, which closed in 1939. Here he means the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

prétendant: French: claimant or suitor (as in The Old and Young Pretenders to the English throne).

Detrimental – delightful expression no longer in use. Indeed it is, as I can trace nothing. Presumably a bit of Victorian slang like masher or bounder.
No bones were broken: no harm done.

Her smalls are beautiful and real handsewn: Mrs Carter’s underwear was evidently of the highest quality — rather unlikely to have been handsewn in 1956.

Betsy Trotwood’s attitude to Mr. Dick: Dickens, *David Copperfield*. Should be Betsey.

can’t turn to favour and to prettiness Hamlet, Laertes about Ophelia

**Chapter Three**


Every one said Oh. *Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe. 1719. Ch. 15. Man Friday said "Oh" when he addressed his god. Also in *Enter Sir Robert*

75. George describes the Dean and Verger as carrying the "doings" Probably a case containing liturgical vestments, books, forms, etc.

76. Mr Gresham. Fob and blind mouths. The watchers thought Mr. Gresham had a fob (a pocket watch on a chain). Not so, and they were incorrect speaking with "blind mouth" John Milton. *Lycidas*. "Blind mouths that scarce themselves know how to hold"

76. Sexton. Lay official responsible for the care of the church premises and might also help at services.

77. Lucy Ashton. *The Bride of Lammermoor* by Sir Walter Scott. Lucy died tragically on her wedding night. Probably based on a true story of lovers Janet Dalrymple and Lord Rutherford. Forced to part and Janet made to marry man of parents choice. She severely injured him on their wedding night in an insane fit and died within a month.

78. "aside" words spoken by actor which others on stage are not supposed to hear. Henry Irving. 1838 - 1905. Great Victorian Actor-Manager. Dominated the stage for over 25 years.

78. "noble marriage service". Book of Common Prayer. 1662. Old style language. In 1027 and 1928 the Church Assembly attempted to bring in a new prayer book but was defeated by a House of Commons vote. This was called The Deposited Book or the 1928 Prayer Book. A Resolution in 1929 gave authority for clergy to use parts of this and in 1966 parts of the 1928 Prayer Book were legally authorised for public worship.

81. Philavian: Lover of Birds (Latin)

**Chapter Four**

101 The Amazing Marriage – novel by George Meredith, published 1895.


Moving round in their diurnal course – “rolled round in earth’s diurnal course/ with rocks and stones and trees”, William Wordsworth, *A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal*, one of the Lucy poems.

Fair Leslie – presumably a Scottish Ballad, but I can’t find it.

Mr Therm – cheery symbol of the Gas Board until the 1970s. I have a feeling that Colin worked on the Gas Board advertising account – see Lance’s memoirs?
Juno – wife of Jupiter, and presumably a mature goddess.
The coloured landscape – possible reference to “the coloured counties” in A E Houseman’s _Bredon Hill_, from _A Shropshire Lad_.
crabbed age and youth cannot live together – from _The Passionate Pilgrim_, possibly by Shakespeare.

Vache-en-Ecurie and Vache-en-Foin, see _Never Too Late_
_Love in the Valley_, by George Meredith – “often she thinks/ were this wild thing wedded”
Épris, éprise – lit. “taken with”

Holman’s Vita-Sang – must be an in-joke connected with Holman Hunt?

Little Dorrit – _Taking Advice_ is Chapter 14 of Book 2.
Crabbed middle-age – see 105

Riverside, SW3 – presumably in real life Chelsea, which is SW3, where AT was living at the time.

Scandinavian prefabricated wooden houses – I remember these, there were some in the suburbs of Nottingham around this time. They were later than and superior to “prefabs”.

Fly at the opening day – Hymn, Isaac Watts, _Oh God, our help in ages past_, “They fly together, as a dream / dies at the opening day.

Chapter Five

Rennie bridge, town hall on twelve stone legs – mixture of two Cotswold villages, Chipping Camden and Broadway? See _Northbridge Rectory_

The readiness is all – “If it be not now, yet it will come / The readiness is all”, Shakespeare, _Hamlet_, Act V Sc 2.

Rabbi Ben Ezra – “grow old along with me! / The rest is yet to be”, Robert Browning _Rabbi Ben EzrA_

born in the reign of King Alfred – unlikely as Alfred the Great, was King of Wessex from 871-899 AD.

Comprehensive School – Introduced in UK by the Labour Government in 1965, but there were a few experimental ones from 1946 onwards. However, you wouldn’t need a scholarship to go to one, as they were state schools and were replacing the old eleven-plus examination system.

My husband’s grandmother and your great-grandmother were sisters – is this connected with Trollope, or _The Brandons_?

Madrepore – not a real place, means a kind of coral.

Wistaria, glycines, Glycerine Cottage. Miss Hopgood and Miss Crowder’s French was not very good –Glycine, is French for wistaria, not glycerine. And Virginia Creeper is parthenocissus quinquefolia.

Large cup with Father on it – the large cup which was kept for Burne-Jones’s use by the Morrises is in the William Morris Gallery at Walthamstow.

Richmond … highlight – often mentioned by AT, but sometimes in connection with another artist, Raeburn. George Richmond, 1809 – 1890, among whose best known portraits was one of Charlotte Bronte.
Blunderbore – Cornish or English giant of folklore, and one of several giants in a version of *Jack the Giantkiller*.

Pension Ramsden – I think there must be a joke here – one of Margaret Mackail’s best friends was a Mrs Ramsden.

**Chapter Six**

Fuller figure – Not surprising Sylvia couldn’t get into Edith’s clothes, as on p 106 she’s clearly pregnant!

Francis Gresham – see *Miss Bunting*. Mr Gresham on p. 75 is his uncle.

John Leech’s *Punch* drawings. Cartoonist for *Punch* from 1841 – 1864. There is an online archive if you want to search for this one.

Battle of the Nile – one of Nelson’s most famous victories, at Aboukir Bay, 1798.

Sailor’s luck … no one was sure whether this… was complimentary or opprobrious – nor am I, though there was an uproarious 1933 pre-Code film of this name which AT may have known about.

Bracebridge Hall or *The Humorists,* – an account of life at an English country house was written in 1821 by Washington Irving who was living in England at the time. AT often mentions Caldecott’s illustrations to nursery rhymes.

Captain Boldwig – “A little stiff man in a black neckerchief and blue surtout … who … gave his orders with all due grandeur and ferocity.” Charles Dickens *Pickwick Papers* Chapters 18 & 19.

One of the ten commandments – taking the name of the Lord in vain, no doubt.

Gaiter’s Library = Boots

Horace and Lesbia – Catullus, rather than Horace, wrote about Lesbia. Omelette surprise – better known nowadays as Baked Alaska.

Las Palomas – see *Cheerfulness Breaks In*. Presumably the Battle of the River Plate, 1940, so is it Buenos Aires or Montevideo?


Puddingdales on Texington Avenue, - presumably Bloomingdales on Lexington Avenue.

Where the brook and river meet – “Standing, with reluctant feet, /Where the brook and river meet, /Womanhood and childhood fleet!” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Maidenhood* Segregation of the Sexes. – when ladies withdraw, leaving men to their port and cigars.

Lounge (also 229) – definitely a non-U. See Nancy Mitford

Beneficent Autocrat – this expression is often used, but I can’t find the origin.

Female BBC – Joan Stevenson, see *Wild Strawberries*.

Lord Burleigh’s nod: see 59 above.

A nation once first of Europe’s children, now broken through its own pride and folly – Germany
Mr Frank Churchill ...a second, slightly but correctly – Jane Austen, *Emma*. Frequently alluded to by AT.

Stirrup cups – drinks served to mounted huntsmen at the meet before the hunt moves off.

166 Cassone – an Italian chest.
169 Pottofur – Pot au feu


169-170 Langue d’oc, Langue d’oi – French dialects with different words for Yes. See *Northbridge Rectory*

171 Mr Walden Concord Porter  Walden and Concord are presumably references to Thoreau and Alcott, but why Porter?

173 Mrs Petitot – What’s the significance of this name?

175 Thermogène – Thermogene was a medicated wadding used to treat chest ailments. See *Northbridge Rectory*

Lady de Courcy: there is a Lady de Courcy in Jane Austen’s *Lady Susan*, but she would be long before Mr Downing’s aunt.

178 When Summer Time ends – surely it’s the other way round? Ten in Summer Time is nine in GMT.

180 Pauline feelings: St Paul felt that women should remain silent and submissive in church. See *1 Corinthians 14.34-35*.

184 Sibyllic frenzy: Sibyls traditionally delivered their prophecies in an ecstatic frenzy.

185 How much you are allowed to take abroad – still only £50 at that time.

**Chapter Seven**


188 Thinking of the old’un – Mrs Gummidge, Charles Dickens’s *David Copperfield*.

Spirits can steal from the regions of air. Irish song, *The Kerry Dancers*

196 The great mound – if Barchester is Salisbury, this could be Silbury Hill, the prehistoric earthwork.

In Town To-Night. BBC Home Service (or Light Programme) programme introduced by a signature tune becoming traffic noise followed by the words “once again we stop the mighty roar of London’s traffic to bring you….”

198 Eton suits – unlikely for someone of his generation to have worn one.? 

199 Great-grandpapa … like a novel – indeed it is, it’s Trollope,

202 Peace, woman, to the Bishop’s wife – Trollope, *Barchester Towers*

203 Nymph of the downward look and something eye: George can’t get the quotation, but thanks to Google, it’s "Nymph of the downward smile, and sidelong glance", To G.A.W., by John Keats

205 Mrs Bun the Baker’s Wife, Miss Bun the Baker’s Daughter – characters in the children’s card game, Happy Families, where the object is to collect the whole family.

Kamerad (see also 223) – German for Comrade, used as a term of surrender in World War I.

Give him sixpence for being so handsome – is this some old custom?
Three beauties … the apple – the Judgement of Paris, Greek legend.

The Great San Philip – “their mountain-like San Philip that, of fifteen hundred tons,” Alfred, Lord Tennyson, The Revenge, A Ballad of the Fleet.”

Humph – Nursery rhyme, There Was a Lady Loved a Swine. Each verse ends with “Humph, said he”.

Matthew Arnold – “Is not, on cheeks like those,/Lovely the flush? – Ah, so the quiet was!/So was the hush!” Bacchanalia.

Oh love!, Oh fire! - “O love, O fire! Once he drew/With one long kiss my whole soul thro’/My lips, as sunlight drinketh dew.” Alfred Lord Tennyson, Fatima.

She walks in beauty like the night (see also 271) – poem of that name by Byron

Black but comely – Bible Song of Solomon

Mrs Grundyish emendations – Mrs Grundy is a name for an extremely conventional or priggish persons, appearing in various works of fiction including Dickens’s Hard Times.

The Drunkard’s Wife – can’t trace this – possibly a Victorian moral tract.

Better to make one scream serve – ?

Mighty Daughter of the Plough – “Then those eight mighty daughters of the plough /Bent their broad faces toward us,” Alfred Lord Tennyson, The Princess.

carefree days at Vache-en-Foin - see 106

Circumlocution Office – Dickens, Little Dorrit, chapter 10.


Adscriptus glebae – lit. “attached to the soil”, meant that a labourer could be sold or transferred in perpetuity with the land they cultivated.

He either fears his fate too much – “Or his deserts are small,/That dares not put it to the touch/To gain or lose it all.” James Graham, Marquess of Montrose, My dear and only Love.

Affairé – busy, overwhelmed with work.

Odi et amo – I hate and I love

I’ll never have another Mother – also mentioned in Private Enterprise

We’ve ploughed, we’ve sowed – traditional verse at harvest time – probably remembered from Rottingdean.

Superovine –ovine means “of sheep” from the Latin ovum,, a sheep.

Teaspoonful of salts – a laxative, the cure-all remedy of those days.

Faint heart never won fair lady – old saying dating back to at least the 16th century.

No bigod nonsense about her .... Edmund Sparkler. Charles Dickens, Little Dorrit.

We are two daughters of one race – “We were two daughters of one race:She was the fairest in the face.” Aldfred Lord Tennyson, Sisters.

Aurea puella – golden girl

Golden lads and lasses must – Shakespeare, Cymbeline

Sixpence please – a forfeit for having had the quotation capped.

I will shake my bridle rein Upon the further shore ….Adieu for evermore -
Are there any more at home like her – “Tell me, pretty maiden,/Are there any more at home like you?”. Song from *Florodora*, an Edwardian musical comedy.

Bring out the blondes, let joy be unrefined - “On with the dance! let joy be unconfined”. *The Eve of Waterloo*, Lord Byron.

Simony – see 47 above

Barratry – in maritime law, barratry is fraud by a master or crew at the expense of the owners of the ship or its cargo.

Sent to the galleys or Botany Bay and branded on the shoulder – punishments for election bribery.

Cattle murrain – disease of cattle, thought to be the result of casting a spell or some kind of evil influence.

Reform Bill – 1832.

The show in 1947 - see *Peace Breaks Out*

The Transit of Winston – there is a painting by Burne-Jones, *The Transit of Venus*, in which Venus is being pulled along in a chariot by adoring followers.

Quintus Curtius – AT means Marcus Curtius, a 4th C AD Roman who leapt into the gulf opened up by an earthquake in order to rescue the city He is often confused with Quintus Curtius Rufus, biographer of Alexander the Great.

Top-hole – anachronistic. At that date he would have been more likely to say “wizard”, or perhaps “super”.

**Chapter Eight**

225 Lounge (see p. 157)

230 Had that day lighted a fire – presumably a reference to Latimer’s words to Ridley as they were about to be burned at the stake, “We shall this day light such a candle in England, by God’s grace, as I trust shall never be put out”.

232 King Edward the Seventh’s Coronation – had to be postponed in 1902 because the King had appendicitis.

235 Monsieur l’Ours – Mr Bear

233 God – Bog. AT evidently thinks this is funny, but Bog really does mean God in some Slavic languages, certainly in Polish.

237 Madhouse in The Rake’s Progress – series of etchings by Hogarth.

238 Kitchen weel reed up – well cleaned.

239 “then the silence grows ... its bosom so doth heave”. Robert Browning, *The Fireside*.

243 Children of Israel, Exodus 23 – “I will send my fear before thee, and I will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee,” etc etc etc

244 Fine Shades – ?

245 Smitten with the jaw-bone of an ass – Samson slew a thousand men with the jawbone of an ass. *Judges 15:16*.

246 Patria potestas – father’s power.

247 in loco parentis – in place of the parent.

247 Scene from Clerical Life – *Scenes from Clerical Life* is by George Eliot.
Curfew shall not ring tonight – *Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight*, a narrative poem set in the 17th century, written in 1867 by Rose Hartwick Thorpe when she was 16.

Books of Miss Arabella Buckley – Author of books such as *The Fairyland of Science*, 1879

Mr Crawley’s Curtain Lectures – *Mrs Caudle’s Curtain Lectures*, by Douglas William Jerrold, first published in *Punch* in the 1840s.

Chapter Nine

252 Sibylic (see 184)

256 Force a right-hand foot into a left-hand shoe ... a-sitting on a gate – Lewis Carroll, from *Through the Looking Glass*.

“It was the azalea’s breath and she was dead” – Coventry Patmore, *The Azalea*.

257 A monologue from Mrs Nickleby – Nicholas’s mother was given to garrulous monologues. Dickens, *Nicholas Nickleby*.


Koffo-Kure, Kuro-Koff – presumably much the same cough mixture but made by rival companies (as with Holman’s Phospho-Manuro, Corbett’s Bono-Vitasang, Washington’s Vumphos, see Jutland Cottage, pl 268)

261 Old pensioners never die – “Old soldiers never die/they only fade away”, British army song from WWI.

Le respect humain – respect due to all human beings.

262 Come here Charlotte and I’ll kiss yer – Dickens,


not ceasing from mental fight – William Blake, *Jerusalem*

Miss Buss and Miss Beale – founders of girls’ schools in the 19th century.

But why Mrs Griffin?

From which no traveller returns – “that undiscovered Country, from whose bourn/No traveller returns”. *Hamlet*, Act 3 Sc1.

265 Top-sawyer – the better of two jobs in a sawpit, where the bottom-sawyer has to go underneath.

266 What availed ... if she had not charity – 1 *Corinthians* 13.


268 Bolton Abbey in the Olden Time – painting by Landseer, often alluded to by AT.

269 Two French Hens – from the carol *On the First Day of Christmas, My True Love Sent To Me*.

270 These Petruchio manners – Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew*.

271 She walks in beauty like the night – (see 208)

272 Immortal longings – “I have immortal longings in me”.

273 Took up enamelling – at Stanway we saw enamels by Lady Mary Elcho, thought to be the model for Lady Emily Leslie.

274 Sat down flat on the garden path – like Betsey Trotwood in Dickens’s *David Copperfield*, see 58 above.
Chapter Ten

Satirical novels. The misfortunes of Elphin, 1829. Also see Relusions for Northbridge Rectory.

284. Theoretical and practical work.. Dickens, Nicholas Nickleby pity their ignorance and despise them. Nicholas Nickleby, Ch.15. written in a letter by Fanny Squeers to the uncle of NN accusing Nicholas of attacking and injuring Mr.Squeers and others of the family, and then having run away.

286. The year 1956. Quite a lot happened. It was in the period of the Cold War.
1947-90- Political and military tension between USSR and Western powers.

Hungarian Revolution or Uprising. Oct.23 - Nov.19. First major threat to Soviet control since Russia drove out Nazis at the end of WW 2 and occupied Eastern Europe.Revolt spread, but on Nov.4th Russian force invaded and it was crushed. Hungary was suppressed for over another 30 years.

Suez Crisis. Oct - Dec. France and Britain had principal interest in the Canal. In 1956 col. Nasser of Egypt forcibly nationalized it. Israel, Britain and France invaded the area. There was widespread international censure, particularly from the USA, which resulted in s cease fire. This was not politically good for Britain and Prime Minister Anthony Eden resigned.

289. Mary Seraskier. Peter Ibbetson, George du Maurier, who was also a famous illustrator and Punch cartoonist. Not surprising that Lady Fielding thinks the Duchess was a pure George du Maurier type.

291. Ills of Prospero. The Tempest, Act 1, Sc2. Prospero threatens Caliban, “I'll rack thee with old cramps, fill all thy bones with aches...”


303. Noble exhortation. In the Book of Common Prayer psalms were used as exhortations. Psalm 149 was one Praise ye the Lord, sing unto the Lord a new song.

"Peace that passed all understanding” Philippians 4 v7 "will guard your hearts and minds in Christ". This does not really seem to fit with the situation in the church. Possibly AT was trying to show Edith's state of mind. She had been a troubled girl but the beauty of the service and the awareness of Lord William so near had a positive and happy effect on her.

"Suddenly, sweetly, strangely, as Lord Tennyson wrote”: “Suddenly, sweetly, strangely blush'd”, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Maud.