



POMFRET TOWERS, 1938

Harper & Row edition, 1979

(Hazel Bell, 2017)

CHAPTER I

p.3 Humphry **Repton**, landscape architect, 1752-1818

Parthenon, chief temple of the Greek goddess Athena on the hill of the Acropolis at Athens, Greece

p.4-5 “He was joined almost immediately by his son Guy,... who had narrowly escaped **being christened Ippolito**.”

Ippolito de' Medici (1511 – 10 August 1535) was the illegitimate son of Giuliano di Lorenzo de' Medici. Presumably he was the subject of the biography Susan Barton was writing at the time.

p.6 “A delicate child, she had never been able to go regularly to school, so that a natural timidity had been fostered by her semi-invalid life.”
Alice appears to be a forerunner of Anne Fielding in *Miss Bunting*.

p.14 “their mountain-like **San Philip that, of fifteen hundred tons,** /
And up-shadowing high above us with her yawning tiers of guns,
/Took the breath from our sails, and we stay'd.” – from *The Revenge* by
Tennyson

p.15 The **Medici** family of merchants and bankers ruled Florence 15-18th c.

Antiphonal music is performed by two semi-independent choirs in interaction.

p.17 Mr **Wickfield** is a lawyer in *David Copperfield* who drinks heavily.

“No, Lord Pomfret ... this is *not* Ancient Egypt.”
Several of the **Egyptian** Pharaohs married their siblings.

CHAPTER II

- p.21 The Manufacture des **Gobelins** is a tapestry factory located in Paris, France,
- p.37 “The furniture was in the highest style of **Pre-Raphaelite** discomfort.”
Compare this from Thirkell’s *Three Houses*:
“As I look back on the furniture of my grandparents' [Edward Burne-Jones and Georgiana] houses I marvel chiefly at the lack of comfort which the P-R Brotherhood succeeded in creating for itself. It was not, I think, so much that they actively despised comfort, as that the word conveyed absolutely nothing to them whatever. I can truthfully say that at neither was there a single chair that invited to repose ... the sofas were simply long low tables with a little balustrade round two, or sometimes three sides ... the best was too short to lie on ... massive washing-stands apt to fall heavily forward on to a small child ... beds ... it can only have been the physical vigour and perfect health of their original designers that made them believe their work was fit to sleep in.”
- p. 42 **Sydney Carton** gives his life to save that of Lucie Manette’s husband in Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities*.
- p.43 Sculpture on **Assyrian** imperial palaces included colossal portal-figures of winged **bulls**.

CHAPTER III

- p.52 Verlag Karl **Baedeker** is a German publisher and pioneer in the business of worldwide travel guides.
- p.53 **Punch**, in full Punchinello, hooknosed, humpbacked character, the most popular of marionettes and glove puppets and the chief figure in the Punch-and-Judy puppet show.
- p.58 Verlag Karl **Baedeker** is a German publisher and pioneer in the business of worldwide travel guides.
- p.61 Antonio **Canova**, Italian sculptor, 1757-1822.
Giovanni Giacomo **Casanova** de Seingalt, Venetian courtier, 1725-98.
- p.62 **Aunt Sally** – a wooden dummy at which players throw sticks or balls at fairgrounds.
Guy Fawkes, 1570-1606, involved in Gunpowder Plot.
- p.63 **Hengist and Horsa** are legendary brothers said to have led the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes in their invasion of Britain in the 5th century.
- p.65 **Surrealism** was an art movement begun in 1924 mingling reason with unreason.
- p.66 **O Lyric Love, half-angel and half-bird**
And all a wonder and a wild desire, — from “The Ring and the Book”, by Robert Browning.

CHAPTER IV

- p.78 **Hypatia**, 350-415, was a Greek mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher. She was murdered by a Christian mob.

Benjamin **Disraeli**, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, 1804-81

- p.86 The **hansom cab** was a kind of horse-drawn carriage designed in 1834.
- p.87 **The Set of Five** – the Group of Seven was a group of Canadian landscape painters controversial in the 1920s and 30s. Mr Scatcherd in *The Old Bank House* is an admirer of this school.
- p.96 Dante Alighieri, 1265-1321, Italian poet.

CHAPTER V

- p.100 **Edith Dombey and Mr. Carker** – in *Dombey and Son*, Charles Dickens
- p.100-1 **Lady Clara Newcome and Lord Highgate**
– in *The Newcomes*, W. M. Thackeray
- p.101 **Clara Mowbray, Francis Tyrrel** – in *St Ronan's Well* by W. Scott

John **Ballantyne** (1774–1821) was a Scottish publisher notable for his work with Walter **Scott**.

CHAPTER VI

- p.121 The **Alhambra** is a palace and fortress complex in Granada, Andalusia, Spain.
- George Frederick **Watts**, 1817-1904, British painter.
- Lord Frederick **Leighton**, 1830-96, British painter and sculptor.
- p.122 **Punch**, or *The London Charivari* was a British weekly magazine of humour and satire established in 1841 by Henry Mayhew.

CHAPTER VII

- p.143 **Angkor Wat** is a temple complex in Cambodia.
- p.151 **Châtelaine**, a woman who owns or controls a large house
- p.154 **Pelham Grenville Wodehouse**, 1881-1975, English novelist
trial scene in Dickens' *Pickwick Papers*
Mrs Gamp and **Mrs. Prig** – in Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*
- p.155 **Leaves of Grass** volume of poems by Walt Whitman, 1819-92, published 1855
- p. 160 Madame Récamier, 1777-1849 – French hostess

- p.161 [**Fair**] **Rosamund** Clifford was the mistress of Henry II, reputed to have been traced in a maze at Woodstock and murdered by his queen, **Eleanor** of Aquitaine.
- p.164 “the work the firm had been doing on Hiram’s Hospital”. At the end of Trollope’s *The Warden*, Hiram’s Hospital, unoccupied, “has become disordered and ugly”. How nice that Barton & Wicklow are restoring it.
- p.165 Horatio Nelson wrote in a private letter to Lady Hamilton about '**the Nelson touch**, which we say is warranted never to fail'.

CHAPTER VIII

- p.174 “bearing the Mark of Pain”
And the Lord set a mark on Cain – *Genesis* 4.15
- p.175 “she wrote a handsome Collins”
Collins: A “thank you” letter for hospitality received, named after Mr. Collins of *Pride and Prejudice*.

CHAPTER IX

- p.191 The publishers Bungay and Bacon – are these plays on the name of real publishers? The description of Bungay would fit Murray. Also the US publishers earlier (p.76), Vandermeer and Apfelbaum? Johns & Fairfield? And their club, the Polyanthus? p.192 – the agent, Hobb?

Arthur Pendennis – hero of *The History of Pendennis* by W. M. Thackeray

- p.198 “**as violent delights often have violent ends**”
“These **violent delights** have violent ends” – *Romeo and Juliet* Act II scene 6

CHAPTER XI

- p. 230 the Sins of Society.
Title of a published sermon by Jesuit priest Father Bernard Vaughan, 1915
- p. 233 blue prints for Hiram’s Hospital. As above, p. 164
- p. 237
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than **Norman blood**.
– from “Lady Clara Vere de Vere” by Tennyson
- p.248 **Great-heart** acts as a loyal companion and protector to Christiana in Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*.