

English novel by virtue of a single work, but that place is very high.

"The Vicar of Wakefield" is a delightful ~~novel~~ novel. It is strong in the story-interest. The novelist has adopted the direct method of narration through the Principal character, the plot is coherent and well-knit and the story is gripping in its interest. The only fault that can be found with its plot is the way in which the final resolution has been hastily huddled up at the close. The restoration of the entire family of the vicar to happiness has been conducted in a summary and ineffective manner. However, this is merely a minor blemish in a work of extraordinary merit, and it, in no way, detracts from its story-interest.

Goldsmith's profound knowledge of human nature is seen in the characterization of the novel. His characters are life-like, and they change and grow like real human beings. Oliver and Sophia, though butterflies of fashion they may be, "are the nearest approach to real country girls that had yet appeared in the novel". However, his greatest triumph is the character of Dr. Primrose who is among the immortals of literature. He is a self-portrait, a sketch of the novelist himself. It is through him that the novelist has presented his views on life and society. "The Character of the Vicar" says Raleigh, "is Goldsmith's creation and his portrait must take rank very near Parson Adams and uncle Toby, both of whom he resembles in his simplicity and innocence."

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Paper - IV

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### Oliver Goldsmith (Lecture 1)

Oliver Goldsmith was a great poet, novelist, dramatist and an essayist of 18th century. He played a vital role in the development of English literature and English language. He was the contemporary of Dr. Johnson as Thomson was that of Pope. He was essentially a conservative in literary theory as Dr. Johnson, of whose "Club" he was an eminent member. He has left behind him two important poems, *The Traveller* (1764) and *The Deserted Village* (1770) and both are in heroic couplets. The first poem is didactic and is concerned with the description and criticism of the various places and people of Europe which Goldsmith visited. His second poem *The Deserted Village* which is rich in natural descriptions, and is vibrant with a peculiar note of sentiment and melancholy which foreshadows the 19th century romantics. The substance of both the poems foreshadows the rising romanticism of the day, but the diction is artificial and pompous in the pseudo-classical tradition of the past.

Oliver Goldsmith was not a regular novelist. He became a novelist only by chance and necessity. He was in urgent need of money, a novel, "*The Vicar of Wakefield*", was found ready in his desk, and Dr. Johnson sold it for sixty guineas. In this way was the English novel enriched by this charming, delightful, little piece. He has a place in the history of