

Periodical Essays

classmate

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The periodical Essay was also inclusive of women who hitherto ignored in literature. It attracted the attention of women and became popular amongst the fair sex. The periodical essayist treated women with respect and dignity. Hudson remarks, "in particular, they addressed themselves avowedly and directly to the women and at a time when in society the woman and at a time when in were as a rule immersed in the more trivialities of existence. They did their best to draw them into current of larger intellectual life"

The periodical Essay contributed to the rise of feminism in life and literature. Women became conscious of their place and importance in the society. The increasing interest in the political affairs, the establishment of clubs and coffee houses and the new printing houses contributed to the development of prose in general and periodical essay in particular.

Daniel Defoe, founded the review was the pioneer of the periodical essay. The review first appeared weekly, then twice and later thrice a week. Its main aim was to acquaint English people with Defoe's thoughts

on international politics and on commerce. The review comes nearer the periodical essay in the section called the Mercure Scandal or Advice. From the Scandal Scandalous club, which is described as being, "A weekly history of nonsense, impertinence and vice and debauchery. Jonathan Swift's connection with the periodical Essay is very slight. He wrote a few papers for the Tatler and the Spectator. He also contributed to the Sheridan's periodical, "The Intelligencer". It is only rarely that he shows the gift of the periodical essayist as in the account of death of Mr. Partidge and meditation upon a Broomstick.

"The Tatler" appeared three times a week. Steele wrote under the pseudonym of Mr. Broomstick. In the beginning, it was practically written by Steele alone but after some time Addison too, began to contribute to it other writers also contributed the essays as the social life of England. Steele joined Addison in creating the Spectator in 1711. The new paper appeared daily. Both Steele and Addison were coadjutors from the start. Steele had contributed 170 papers to it, when it came to an end.

Oliver Goldsmith's contribution to the Periodical Essay is remarkable. He contributed to The Monthly Review in 1757, and to several others, periodical as well. He also contributed to the Bee, which was published weekly. It contained papers on variety of subjects. Goldsmith's essays reveal an extraordinary power, boldness, originality of thoughts and tenderness. In this respect

He is superior to Addison or any other of the periodical essayists.

Defoe, Addison, Steele and Goldsmith not only contributed to the development of periodical essay but also help significantly the development of Modern essay was declined. No man of first rate ability touched it.