

bear a uniform stamp of inferiority? Such is the inevitable conclusion of this book and I regard the author as a man of most powerful art & genius but partial & unphilosophical in his views & opinions.

Does he mean us to suppose that the English aristocracy shows no specimens of humanity as contemptible as Titmouse?

Or that the English tradesman is to be fitly represented by Tagrag?

The plot of the book is most powerful, new and striking, but the tendency to describe high life and its characters as on the whole purely admirable and faultless while the opposite condition of men are only a remove above the brute creation, is to my mind a fault.

When the author describes Titmouse and Tagrag, Quirk, Huckleback, &c. &c. - he conveys to the mind the predominance of kindly sarcasm with which I consider that a highly educated man must regard all mankind, himself included, but whenever we approach Aubrey & his family or the De La Bourches we are at once if not among saints and angels at least among beings whose faults & imperfections are totally lost sight of in the constant stream of their virtues.

This fact makes me turn with disgust from the descriptions of Aubrey & Co and regard only

with pleasure the portraits of the lower orders. My own education is alas terribly imperfect.

Six years of my life have passed for nothing - Would I could blot their occurrences from my memory!

What, oh what records are to be made on the book of my fate before six more years shall roll by! this much I am determined; they shall be decisive!

4th July 1856

Rain: cleared at night: A.B. quiet: Theatre in evening: "Satan in Paris": I was tired to death: did not get out until near one o'clock.

5th July 1856

Fine weather: made up my mind not to go to theatrical performances in out of the way places like this unless expecting to be disgusted & fairly put to sleep as I was last night. Also came to the conclusion that theatres are rather a childish amusement at best but if not of the best quality - they are slightly unendurable.

Have since seen the Drama of "The Wife" at this Theatre: by the help of two prominent actors from Boston it passed off well and two Yankee farces afterwards were amusing.