

## Literature in the Victorian Era and the Emergence of Modern Society

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**Abstract:** *It goes without saying that a time period of literature is inextricably linked to the culture of the time. An account of English literature from Compton-point Rickett's of view. If you want to view it properly and have a good sense of its worth, you need to limn it against a backdrop of its community events. The Victorian era is an excellent example of this fact. Majority of the authors of the time period display a critical consciousness in their work. In the Nineteenth century, literature was very near social reality, as noted by Compton-Rickett. Kingsley pens ardent social tracts disguised as stories; low food fuels Ebenezer Eliot's creativity; Elizabeth Barrett gives voice to *The Cry of the Children*; and Thomas Hood forever memorializes the tired seamstress and the despondent wretched. After detouring through German literature and European history, Carlye dives headfirst into contemporary political matters. No writer of literature has confronted industrialized issues with more understanding and more dazzling weirdness than Ruskin, who began his career as a commentator of the painting arts and now turns his attention to the more complicated art of living in the new century.*

**Keywords**— Disorders of cognition, Victorian literature, and the English language

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### INTRODUCTION

The Victorian era, for instance, is difficult to reduce to a formula because of its complexity. This is a challenging task because of two factors:

- (i) The era was marked by fast and far-reaching development, and
- (ii) The interplay of cultural structures in the age were complicated at any given time.

This is a perfect application of A.C. Ward's remarks, "One of the frustrating things about the Victorian era is that it refuses to be categorised by the many names that have been applied to it throughout the years, both positive and negative." It was both a Golden Age and a Dark Age; an

Age of Virtue and Disingenuousness, Wealth and Want, Optimism and Consumerism, Development and Collapse, Glory and Dirt. It was a serious time, yet it gave birth to more comedic authors than any other era before or after. Even though it was a historic era that lasted for over sixty years, its underpinnings were being chipped away at for at least another four decades until Queen Victoria's demise in 1901. The writing of the time both represents and contributes to this intricacy. The advancement of knowledge and politics were the two influential aspects of the Victorian Era.

The writing of the Victorian period reflects the era's fast architectural progress, which altered the people's tangible surroundings. There was a prolific flowering of technical writing at this time. In this era, we saw the publication of seminal books like Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. However, the fast advancement of physical science had a much greater impact on Victorian Literary cannon via tangential and nearly universal than such serious impact. Compton Rickett argues that "the progress of knowledge has revolutionised man's view on existence and has touched every channel of intellectual endeavour." How exactly did things change in these ways? To begin with, it propagated a purely materialistic worldview. In its stead, "this-worldliness" emerged as the dominant sensation. Soon after, there was a dramatic shift in the values that were considered to be of importance in life, and everything became commercialised. A man's unrest is as much a result of his materialistic and business interests as his frenetic lifestyle. All intellectual calmness was foreign to the "busy hum of humanity."

Second, the growth of science had a significant role in the formation of the distinctive scientific temperament that was found in many of the great literary authors. A few of them even used "scientific" methodologies in their written works at some point in their careers. As a poet, Tennyson, for example, adhered to the scientific way of describing things, which places a priority on the exactness of the details described. It would seem that a scholarly mindset was also prevalent in the historical writings of the time period. Carlyle, who in other ways was vehemently against science, Buckle, and many others embraced as historiography the empirical approach of uncovering and orienting correct facts and tying them to the psychology of an era. This was done using the methodological approach. The implementation plan and the comprehensive study were carried out in a scientific manner. Even in the world of fiction, there was unequivocal evidence that the unfeeling hand of technology was at work. The social issues that preoccupied older Victorian authors like Charlotte Bronte, Charles Dickens, Kingsley, and Reade have been supplanted by concerns related to genetics, psychiatry, and psychopathology.

## **CONSERVATIVENESS IN LIGHT OF THE TIMES**

The Victorians were quite conservative when it came to sexuality. The Victorian martinet would fall into a fit of anger at the slightest clothing infraction (let alone the contemporary "bare chested" and the "little hemline," which, in the view of the houses at the 1966 yearly discussion of the Oxford Union, "does not go far enough"). When it came to sex, they were very sensitive and

awkward. Though they were otherwise uncompromising realists, even authors like Thackeray, Dickens, George Eliot, and others did not let their protagonists' animal natures shine through. Gentlemen handle the sex monster with kid gloves. Thackeray, in *Vanity Fair*, details the professional future of a clever little meretrix (Becky Sharp), but he never so much as implies that she is an animal. This is done so that the viewers' characteristics are not jarred. It was common for Victorian parents to exert a lot of authority. A teenage girl may still be seen lamenting, "Oh, I have a Victorian type of papa!" if her dad isn't too open to letting her do what she wants on dates. As shown in Mr. Murdstone's treatment of David Copperfield, a Victorian father's authority may be ruthless.

In the Victorian period, being drunk was considered a crime in and of itself. The widespread coffee house drinking that spawned wine enthusiasts like Addison, Steele, and Dr. Johnson in the 18th century has long since died out. Dickens is creeped out by drunks and is fascinated by them. He does deal with overindulgence in his early books, but in his later writings, he does it with a more sombre and pedagogical purposefulness. Actually, Dickens is expressing the dramatic change in majority sentiment and style.

The English book flourished throughout the Nineteenth Century. This was partially due to the fact that this primarily middle-class form of art and literature was obligated to thrive more and more as the middle classes gained significance, partially due to the steady increment in the general populace brought on by the advancement of loaning library services, the modernization of publication, and other manifestations that preceded this increment, and partially due to the fact that the novel was the medium best suited to portraying life lived in a particular society. The novel is what Northrop Frye refers to as a "low mimic" literary genre, much like the mediaeval fabliau.

## **DICKENS, THE ERA'S DEAN**

To the average Victorian novel-reader, the appeal of reading about a high aristocracy world of perfect heroism and elegance is as missing as the eagerness to see the underlying issues of the human existence predicted inventively and metaphorically through the demonstration of "great" figures trying to act out their ultimate fate on the broad basis.

The Victorian book reader was looking for entertainment and, maybe, a way out of reality. On the other hand, he preferred works that broke few rules of literature and required little in the way of "aesthetic detachment." He sought realism in his reading, believing that literary writing was journalistic and fiction was history in order to feel closer to the subject matter. Fiction writers, especially the great ones, had them tricked, of course. Without the filter of literary form and creativity, the average reader may have mistakenly believed that the events unfolding before him were real. Representational pictures and circumstances implying ideas like the despair solitude of the ordinary person are abundant in Dickens' novels, implying significance that attained far greater

depth than the surface level sequence of social action recommended to the general reader. However, it has been the task of contemporary critics to delve into this facet of Victorian literature. With a wonderful knack for catching the strangeness of the person and the extravagance of the occasion, Dickens started his career by keeping time until he could present yet another such peculiarity and occasion. The *Pickwick Papers* show him experimenting with hilarious reportage and moving toward something more than in his earlier work, *Sketches by Boz* (1836).

## CONCLUSION

As a result, works published in Britain during the time of Queen Victoria are simply referred to as Victorian literary masterpieces. Queen Victoria is described as "one of England's most unfashionable monarchs" by Eddie Izzard, a British comedian. You may look at her photo and make up your own mind. Victoria's reign lasted 63 years, from 1837 to 1901. Queen Victoria's 63 years and 7 months in power are the greatest of any British monarch, but it appears like our lady, Queen Elizabeth II, is on track to break that record.

Huge demographic increase. The number of people living in England more than quadrupled during Victoria's reign, going from around 14 million to over 32 million. Science also saw some major advancements. There is a brief crossover between the Victorian period and the Industrialisation in Britain, which ushered in profound changes in how people worked, travelled, and lived. The English people benefited greatly from these technological advancements, but they also caused a dramatic shift in how they worked, played, and related to one another and the rest of the world. Those of us who remember a world without the Internet should understand. Altering perspectives on the world are yet another feature of the Victorian age. People in England were rethinking who they were and how they engaged with the world as a result of not only technological advancements but also developing scientific concepts like Charles Darwin's evolutionary theory. First and foremost, many individuals were becoming distant from religious institutions like churches. Finally, working-class people were living in appalling circumstances. When the gap between the wealthy and the poor widened dramatically during the Industrial Era, many people (especially creative types like writers) felt compelled to say a word out against what they saw as societal inequities, which, if you've been keeping up with the 'We are the 99%' progression, may sound awfully similar to what's currently occurring.

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