

【少年维特的烦恼】中英双语对照



《少年维特的烦恼》是德国作家约翰·沃尔夫冈·冯·歌德于1774年创作的一部小说。这部作品通过书信体的形式，讲述了主人公维特对一个已婚女子洛特的单相思，以及他因无法获得爱情而导致的精神崩溃和自杀的悲剧。维特的形象深刻地反映了青年的热情、理想与现实的冲突，以及个人情感的极端表达。这部小说是文学史上最早的浪漫主义作品之一，对后世文学产生了深远影响。歌德（1749-1832）是德国文学史上的巨匠，也是欧洲文艺复兴后

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I have carefully collected whatever I have been able to learn of the story of poor Werther, and here present it to you, knowing that you will thank me for it.

我仔细收集了我所能了解到的可怜的维特的故事，现在把它呈现给你，知道你会感谢我。 —

To his spirit and character you cannot refuse your admiration and love:

对于他的精神和性格，你无法拒绝钦佩和爱戴。 —

to his fate you will not deny your tears.

对于他的命运，你不会否认你的眼泪。

And thou, good soul, who sufferest the same distress as he endured once, draw comfort from his sorrows;

善良的灵魂啊，如果你遭受与他曾经遭受的苦难相同的困境，从他的悲伤中获得安慰吧； —

and let this little book be thy friend, if, owing to fortune or through thine own fault, thou canst not find a dearer companion.

如果由于命运或自己的过错，你找不到更亲密的伴侣，请让这本小书成为你的朋友。

MAY 4.

5月4日。

How happy I am that I am gone! My dear friend, what a thing is the heart of man!

我多么高兴我已经离开了！亲爱的朋友，人的心是多么复杂啊！ —

To leave you, from whom I have been inseparable, whom I love so dearly, and yet to feel happy!

离开与你分不开的我，离开我如此深爱的你，却感到幸福！ —

I know you will forgive me.

我知道你会原谅我的。 —

Have not other attachments been specially appointed by fate to torment a head like mine?

难道不是其他纠缠不清的情感被命运特意给了像我这样困扰的头脑吗？可怜的莱昂诺拉！ —

Poor Leonora! and yet I was not to blame.

然而我并不应对此负责。 —

Was it my fault, that, whilst the peculiar charms of her sister afforded me an agreeable entertainment, a passion for me was engendered in her feeble heart?

这是我的错吗？是不是因为当她姐姐的独特魅力给了我愉快的娱乐时，她脆弱的心里产生了对我爱的激情？ —

And yet am I wholly blameless?

然而我完全没有过错吗？ —

Did I not encourage her emotions?

我不是鼓励了她的情感吗？ —

Did I not feel charmed at those truly genuine expressions of nature, which, though but little mirthful in reality, so often amused us?

我没有感到这些真诚而纯粹的自然表达令人愉悦吗？尽管实际上并不特别欢乐，但是它们经常让我们开心起来。 —

Did I not – but oh! what is man, that he dares so to accuse himself?

但是，哦！人有什么资格如此责难自己呢？亲爱的朋友， —

My dear friend I promise you I will improve;

我向你保证我会改正； —

I will no longer, as has ever been my habit, continue to ruminate on every petty vexation which fortune may dispense;

我将不再像过去那样，对命运给予的每一个小困扰都反复思考。 —

I will enjoy the present, and the past shall be for me the past.

我会享受现在，而过去就让它成为过去吧。 —

No doubt you are right, my best of friends, there would be far less suffering amongst mankind, if men – and God knows why they are so fashioned – did not employ their imaginations so assiduously in recalling the memory of past sorrow, instead of bearing their present lot with equanimity.

毫无疑问你是对的，我最好的朋友，如果人们——天知道他们为什么如此设计——不那么刻意地用想象力回忆过去的痛苦，而是平静地承受现在的命运，那么人类间的苦难就会少得多。 —

Be kind enough to inform my mother that I shall attend to her business to the best of my ability, and shall give her the earliest information about it.

请您善意地通知我母亲，我将尽我所能处理她的事务，并尽早向她提供相关信息。 —

I have seen my aunt, and find that she is very far from being the disagreeable person our friends allege her to be.

我见过我的姑妈，发现她远非我们的朋友所说的那个讨厌的人。 —

She is a lively, cheerful woman, with the best of hearts.

她是一个活泼、开朗的女人， —

I explained to her my mother's wrongs with regard to that part of her portion which has been withheld from her.

心地极好。我向她解释了母亲关于被扣留的那部分财产的不公。 —

She told me the motives and reasons of her own conduct, and the terms on which she is willing to give up the whole, and to do more than we have asked. In short, I cannot write further upon this subject at present;

她告诉我她自己行为的动机和原因，以及她愿意放弃全部并做更多的条件。简而言之，我目前不能再进一步写关于这个主题的内容； —

only assure my mother that all will go on well.

只能保证我母亲一切都会顺利进行。 —

And I have again observed, my dear friend, in this trifling affair, that misunderstandings and neglect occasion more mischief in the world than even malice and wickedness.

而且我又观察到，亲爱的朋友，在这个微不足道的事情上，误解和忽视所造成的危害比恶意和邪恶还要多； —

At all events, the two latter are of less frequent occurrence.

无论如何，后两者发生的频率要较少。

In other respects I am very well off here.

在其他方面，我在这里过得很好。 —

Solitude in this terrestrial paradise is a genial balm to my mind, and the young spring cheers with its bounteous promises my oftentimes misgiving heart.

在这个地上天堂中的孤独对我的心灵来说是一种温暖的镇静剂，而年轻的春天则用其丰盛的承诺来鼓舞我时常犹豫的心； —

Every tree, every bush, is full of flowers;

每棵树，每棵灌木，都开满了花朵； —

and one might wish himself transformed into a butterfly, to float about in this ocean of perfume, and find his whole existence in it.

一个人可能希望自己变成一只蝴蝶，在这片芬芳的海洋中飘荡，并将他的整个存在融入其中；

The town itself is disagreeable; but then, all around, you find an inexpressible beauty of nature. 城市本身并不宜人；但是，四周的大自然却有一种无法言表的美丽。 —

This induced the late Count M to lay out a garden on one of the sloping hills which here intersect each other with the most charming variety, and form the most lovely valleys.

这促使已故的M伯爵在这里的交叉的斜坡上布置了一个花园，具有最迷人的多样性，形成了最可爱的山谷。 —

The garden is simple; and it is easy to perceive, even upon your first entrance, that the plan was not designed by a scientific gardener, but by a man who wished to give himself up here to the enjoyment of his own sensitive heart.

这个花园很简单；即使在你第一次进入时也很容易看出，这个计划不是由一个科学的园艺师设计的，而是由一个希望自己沉浸在感性心灵享受中的人设计的。 —

Many a tear have I already shed to the memory of its departed master in a summer-house which is now reduced to ruins, but was his favourite resort, and now is mine.

我已经为这个已故的主人流过了许多泪水，这个现在变成废墟的凉亭是他最喜欢的休憩地，现在是我的。 —

I shall soon be master of the place.

我很快就会成为这个地方的主人。 —

The gardener has become attached to me within the last few days, and he will lose nothing thereby.

园丁在过去几天里变得亲近我，他不会失去任何东西。

MAY 10.

5月10日。

A wonderful serenity has taken possession of my entire soul, like these sweet mornings of spring which I enjoy with my whole heart.

一种奇妙的宁静已经占据了整个灵魂，就像我全心全意享受这个春天的清晨一样。 —

I am alone, and feel the charm of existence in this spot, which was created for the bliss of souls like mine.

我独自一人，在这个为像我这样的灵魂的幸福而创造的地方感受到存在的魅力。 —

I am so happy, my dear friend, so absorbed in the exquisite sense of mere tranquil existence, that I neglect my talents.

亲爱的朋友，我如此幸福，沉浸在单纯的存在感中，以至于忽略了我的才能。 —

I should be incapable of drawing a single stroke at the present moment;

此刻，我已经无法画出一笔了， —

and yet I feel that I never was a greater artist than now.

然而我感觉我从未像现在这样成为了一位更杰出的艺术家。 —

When, while the lovely valley teems with vapour around me, and the meridian sun strikes the upper surface of the impenetrable foliage of my trees, and but a few stray gleams steal into the inner sanctuary, I throw myself down among the tall grass by the trickling stream;

当美丽的山谷弥漫着雾气，午时的阳光照射在我树木的浓密树冠上，只有少许阳光透过树冠的缝隙洒在我脚下的长草上时， —

and, as I lie close to the earth, a thousand unknown plants are noticed by me:

当我靠近大地躺下时，我注意到了成千上万未知的植物。 —

when I hear the buzz of the little world among the stalks, and grow familiar with the countless indescribable forms of the insects and flies, then I feel the presence of the Almighty, who formed us in his own image, and the breath of that universal love which bears and sustains us, as it floats around us in an eternity of bliss;

当我听到芦苇中传来微小的喧嚣声，熟悉无数难以形容的昆虫和苍蝇的形态时，我感受到了全能者的存在，他以自己的形象创造了我们，并以永恒的幸福环绕我们的无尽爱的气息承载和支撑着我们。 —

and then, my friend, when darkness overspreads my eyes, and heaven and earth seem to dwell in my soul and absorb its power, like the form of a beloved mistress, then I often think with longing, Oh, would I could describe these conceptions, could impress upon paper all that is living so full and warm within me, that it might be the mirror of my soul, as my soul is the mirror of the infinite God!

然后，我的朋友，当黑暗笼罩在我的眼前，天地似乎在我灵魂里融合并吸收它的力量时，就像一个心爱的情人的形象，那时我常常渴望地想，哦，我能描述这些构思就好了，能够把充满我内心的生动和温暖刻画在纸上，那就能成为我灵魂的镜子，就像我的灵魂是无限上帝的镜子一样！

O my friend – but it is too much for my strength – I sink under the weight of the splendour of these visions!

哦，我的朋友——这对我的体力来说太过沉重了——我在这些幻景的辉煌中崩溃！

MAY 12.

5月12日。

I know not whether some deceitful spirits haunt this spot, or whether it be the warm, celestial fancy in my own heart which makes everything around me seem like paradise.

我不知道是不是有一些欺诈的灵魂在这个地方出没，还是说这只是我自己心中温暖而充满幻想的天堂使我周围的一切都显得如此。 —

In front of the house is a fountain, – a fountain to which I am bound by a charm like Melusina and her sisters.

在房子前面有一个喷泉——一个喷泉，它像梅卢兽和她的姐妹们一样，用魔力将我与它绑定在一起。 —

Descending a gentle slope, you come to an arch, where, some twenty steps lower down, water of the clearest crystal gushes from the marble rock.

顺着一个温和的坡道，你会来到一个拱门，在拱门下方约二十级台阶处，清澈纯净的水从大理石岩石中涌出。 —

The narrow wall which encloses it above, the tall trees which encircle the spot, and the coolness of the place itself, – everything imparts a pleasant but sublime impression.

狭窄的围墙将其围在上面，高大的树木环绕着这个地方，以及这个地方本身的凉爽气息，——所有这些都给人以愉悦但庄严的印象。 —

Not a day passes on which I do not spend an hour there.

每天都有一小时我不在那里消磨。 —

The young maidens come from the town to fetch water, – innocent and necessary employment, and formerly the occupation of the daughters of kings.

年轻的女仆们从城里来取水——无辜而必要的工作，以前是国王的女儿们的职业。 —

As I take my rest there, the idea of the old patriarchal life is awakened around me.

在那里休息的时候，我会唤起我周围的古老父权生活的想法。 —

I see them, our old ancestors, how they formed their friendships and contracted alliances at the fountain-side;

我看见了他们，我们的古老祖先，他们是如何在泉边结交友谊和联姻的； —

and I feel how fountains and streams were guarded by beneficent spirits.

并且我感受到泉水和溪流被仁慈的精灵守护。 —

He who is a stranger to these sensations has never really enjoyed cool repose at the side of a fountain after the fatigue of a weary summer day.

那些对这种感觉陌生的人从未真正在一个夏日劳累之后的水泉边享受过凉爽的安宁。

MAY 13.

五月13日。

You ask if you shall send me books. My dear friend, I beseech you, for the love of God, relieve me from such a yoke!

你问我是否应该给我送书。亲爱的朋友，为了上帝的爱，求你解脱我这样的负担！ —

I need no more to be guided, agitated, heated.

我不再需要被引导、鼓舞或激动。 —

My heart ferments sufficiently of itself.

我的心已经足够自己发酵了。 —

I want strains to lull me, and I find them to perfection in my Homer. Often do I strive to allay the burning fever of my blood;

我希望有一些音乐来使我安静下来，而我在荷马的作品中完美地找到了它们。我经常努力平息我炽热的血液的燃烧热。 —

and you have never witnessed anything so unsteady, so uncertain, as my heart.

你从未见过像我这样不稳定、不确定的心。 —

But need I confess this to you, my dear friend, who have so often endured the anguish of witnessing my sudden transitions from sorrow to immoderate joy, and from sweet melancholy to violent passions?

但是我需要向你坦白这一点吗，亲爱的朋友？你曾经多次忍受了看到我忽然从悲伤转为无节制的喜悦，从甜美的忧郁转为狂热的情感。 —

I treat my poor heart like a sick child, and gratify its every fancy.

我像对待一个生病的孩子一样对待我的可怜心灵，满足它的每一个幻想。 —

Do not mention this again:

不要再提起这个了： —

there are people who would censure me for it.

某些人会指责我的。

MAY 15.

五月十五日。

The common people of the place know me already, and love me, particularly the children.

这个地方的普通人已经认识我并且喜欢我，尤其是孩子们。 —

When at first I associated with them, and inquired in a friendly tone about their various trifles, some fancied that I wished to ridicule them, and turned from me in exceeding ill-humour.

当我起初和他们打交道，并友好地询问他们各种琐事时，有些人以为我是想嘲笑他们，就非常不高兴地避开我。 —

I did not allow that circumstance to grieve me:

我没有允许那种情况让我悲伤： —

I only felt most keenly what I have often before observed.

我只是最深刻地感受到了我以前经常观察到的事情。 —

Persons who can claim a certain rank keep themselves coldly aloof from the common people, as though they feared to lose their importance by the contact;

那些能够称得上某个阶层的人冷漠地疏远普通百姓，好像他们害怕通过接触失去自己的重要性； —

whilst wanton idlers, and such as are prone to bad joking, affect to descend to their level, only to make the poor people feel their impertinence all the more keenly.

而放荡的懒汉和那些喜欢恶作剧的人却喜欢降低自己的姿态，只为了让穷人更加切身地感受到他们的无礼。

I know very well that we are not all equal, nor can be so;

我很清楚我们并不都是平等的，也不能平等； —

but it is my opinion that he who avoids the common people, in order not to lose their respect, is as much to blame as a coward who hides himself from his enemy because he fears defeat.

但我认为，那些为了不失去普通百姓的尊重而避开他们的人，和一个因为害怕失败而躲避敌人的懦夫一样有责任。

The other day I went to the fountain, and found a young servant-girl, who had set her pitcher on the lowest step, and looked around to see if one of her companions was approaching to place it on her head.

前几天我去了泉水，发现一个年轻的女仆把她的水壶放在最低的台阶上，然后环顾四周，看看是否有她的同伴过来帮她把水壶放在头上。 —

I ran down, and looked at her. "Shall I help you, pretty lass?" said I. She blushed deeply. "Oh, sir!" she exclaimed. "No ceremony!" I replied. She adjusted her head-gear, and I helped her. She thanked me, and ascended the steps.

我跑下去，看着她。“我可以帮你吗，漂亮的小姐？”我说。她深深地红了脸。“哦，先生！”她惊叫道。“没有仪式！”我回答道。她整理了一下头巾，我帮了她。她感谢我，然后上了台阶。

MAY 17.

5月17日。

I have made all sorts of acquaintances, but have as yet found no society.

我结交了各种各样的人，但迄今为止还没有找到什么社交圈。 —

I know not what attraction I possess for the people, so many of them like me, and attach themselves to me;

我不知道我对这些人有什么吸引力，这么多人喜欢我，依附在我身上； —

and then I feel sorry when the road we pursue together goes only a short distance.

然后当我们一起走的路只有很短的距离时，我感到很抱歉。 —

If you inquire what the people are like here, I must answer, "The same as everywhere." The human race is but a monotonous affair.

如果你问这里的人们是什么样子，我必须回答：“和任何地方一样。”人类只是一种单调的事情。

—

Most of them labour the greater part of their time for mere subsistence;

他们大部分时间都为了微薄的生活而劳作； —

and the scanty portion of freedom which remains to them so troubles them that they use every exertion to get rid of it.

而他们所剩下的那一丁点自由使他们如此烦恼，以至于他们想方设法去摆脱它。哦， —

Oh, the destiny of man!

人类的命运！

But they are a right good sort of people.

但他们是一群非常好的人。 —

If I occasionally forget myself, and take part in the innocent pleasures which are not yet forbidden to the peasantry, and enjoy myself, for instance, with genuine freedom and sincerity, round a well-covered table, or arrange an excursion or a dance opportunely, and so forth, all this produces a good effect upon my disposition;

即使我偶尔会忘记自己的身份，参与一些对农民来说还没有被禁止的无害娱乐活动，例如在一张丰盛的餐桌旁真诚地自由享受，或者安排一个适时的郊游活动或舞会等等，这一切都对我的心情产生积极影响； —

only I must forget that there lie dormant within me so many other qualities which moulder uselessly, and which I am obliged to keep carefully concealed.

只是我必须忘记，在我内心深处还隐藏着许多其他无用的品质，我不得不小心翼翼地将它们隐藏起来。 —

Ah! this thought affects my spirits fearfully.

啊！这个想法让我极度沮丧。 —

And yet to be misunderstood is the fate of the like of us.

然而被误解似乎是我们这类人的命运。

Alas, that the friend of my youth is gone!

唉，我的青年时代的朋友已经离去了！唉， —

Alas, that I ever knew her!

我曾经认识她真是太可惜了！ —

I might say to myself, "You are a dreamer to seek what is not to be found here below." But she has been mine.

我可能会对自己说，“你是一个追求在人世间找不到的东西的梦想家。”但她曾经属于我。 —

I have possessed that heart, that noble soul, in whose presence I seemed to be more than I really was, because I was all that I could be.

我曾经拥有过那颗心灵，那颗高贵的灵魂，在她的面前，我似乎比实际更伟大，因为我是我所能成为的一切。 —

Good heavens! did then a single power of my soul remain unexercised?

天哪！我的灵魂有没有一丝力量没有运用过呢？ —

In her presence could I not display, to its full extent, that mysterious feeling with which my heart embraces nature?

在她的面前，我不能完全展示我心灵对自然的那种神秘感受？ —

Was not our intercourse a perpetual web of the finest emotions, of the keenest wit, the varieties of which, even in their very eccentricity, bore the stamp of genius?

我们的交流不是一直都是细腻情感的纷纷扰扰，尖锐机智的织成网，即使是它们很怪异，但也具有天才的印记？ —

Alas! the few years by which she was my senior brought her to the grave before me.

唉！她比我年长几年，先离开我而入坟墓。 —

Never can I forget her firm mind or her heavenly patience.

我永远不会忘记她坚定的心灵和天赐的耐心。

A few days ago I met a certain young V—, a frank, open fellow, with a most pleasing countenance.

几天前，我遇到了一个年轻的V——，他是个坦率开朗的家伙，面容极具吸引力。 —

He has just left the university, does not deem himself overwise, but believes he knows more than other people.

他刚刚离开大学，自认不是太聪明，但相信自己比别人知道得更多。 —

He has worked hard, as I can perceive from many circumstances, and, in short, possesses a large stock of information.

我可以从许多细节中感觉到，他努力工作，总之他拥有丰富的知识储备。 —

When he heard that I am drawing a good deal, and that I know Greek (two wonderful things for this part of the country), he came to see me, and displayed his whole store of learning, from Batteaux to Wood, from De Piles to Winkelmann:

当他听说我在这个地方画得很多，并且我会希腊语（对于这个地方来说，这是两件很了不起的事情）时，他来看我，并展示了他全部的学问，从巴托到伍德，从德皮尔到文克尔曼。 —

he assured me he had read through the first part of Sultzzer's theory, and also possessed a manuscript of Heyne's work on the study of the antique.

他向我保证他已经读完了苏尔策的理论的第一部分，并且还拥有海涅关于古代研究的手稿。 —

I allowed it all to pass. I have become acquainted, also, with a very worthy person, the district judge, a frank and open-hearted man.

我都让它们过去了。我还结识了一个非常有价值的人，地区法官，一个坦率和开放的人。 —

I am told it is a most delightful thing to see him in the midst of his children, of whom he has nine.

有人告诉我看到他和他的九个孩子在一起是非常愉快的事情，特别是他的大女儿。他邀请我去看他，我打算在第一个机会去。 —

His eldest daughter especially is highly spoken of.

他听说我有画画的天赋，还会希腊语（在这个地方算是两样了不起的技能）， —

He has invited me to go and see him, and I intend to do so on the first opportunity.

所以特地过来看我，并展示了他从巴托、伍德到德皮尔、文克尔曼的学识。 —

He lives at one of the royal hunting-lodges, which can be reached from here in an hour and a half by walking, and which he obtained leave to inhabit after the loss of his wife, as it is so painful to him to reside in town and at the court.

他住在其中一座皇家狩猎别墅，从这里步行一个半小时即可到达，他在妻子去世后获得了居住许可，因为他住在城市和宫廷里对他来说太痛苦了。

There have also come in my way a few other originals of a questionable sort, who are in all respects undesirable, and most intolerable in their demonstration of friendship.

我也遇到了一些其他可疑的原始人，他们在所有方面都是令人不快的，他们对友谊的表演是最不能容忍的。 —

Good-bye. This letter will please you:

再见。这封信会让你高兴的： —

it is quite historical.

它是真正的历史。

MAY 22.

五月22日。

That the life of man is but a dream, many a man has surmised heretofore; and I, too, am everywhere pursued by this feeling.

许多人以前猜想人类的生活只是一个梦，我也被这种感觉所追求。 —

When I consider the narrow limits within which our active and inquiring faculties are confined; 当我考虑到我们活跃和探索能力的狭窄界限时； —

when I see how all our energies are wasted in providing for mere necessities, which again have no further end than to prolong a wretched existence;

当我看到我们所有的精力都在为纯粹的生存必需品提供而浪费时，而这些生存必需品又没有其他目的，只是为了延长悲惨的存在。 —

and then that all our satisfaction concerning certain subjects of investigation ends in nothing better than a passive resignation, whilst we amuse ourselves painting our prison-walls with bright figures and brilliant landscapes, – when I consider all this, Wilhelm, I am silent.

然后，对于某些调查课题，我们所有的满足都只会以被动的顺从告终，而我们则用鲜艳的图案和美丽的风景装饰自己的牢房墙壁，而在考虑到所有这一切时，威廉，我沉默了。 —

I examine my own being, and find there a world, but a world rather of imagination and dim desires, than of distinctness and living power.

我审视自己的存在，发现其中有一个世界，但那是一个更多是想象和模糊欲望而不是清晰和有活力的世界。 —

Then everything swims before my senses, and I smile and dream while pursuing my way through the world.

然后一切都在我的感官面前浮动，我微笑着做梦，同时沿着我的世界前行。

All learned professors and doctors are agreed that children do not comprehend the cause of their desires;

所有的博士和教授都同意，孩子们不理解他们欲望的原因； —

but that the grown-up should wander about this earth like children, without knowing whence they come, or whither they go, influenced as little by fixed motives, but guided like them by biscuits, sugar-plums, and the rod, – this is what nobody is willing to acknowledge;

但是成年人就像孩子一样在这个世界上漫游，不知道他们从哪里来，要去哪里，受到的驱使也和孩子们一样，被饼干、糖果和鞭子引导，这是没有人愿意承认的； —

and yet I think it is palpable.

然而，我认为这是明显的。

I know what you will say in reply;

我知道你将在回复中说什么； —

for I am ready to admit that they are happiest, who, like children, amuse themselves with their playthings, dress and undress their dolls, and attentively watch the cupboard, where mamma has locked up her sweet things, and, when at last they get a delicious morsel, eat it greedily, and exclaim, "More!" These are certainly happy beings;

因为我已经准备好承认，那些像孩子一样用玩具自娱自乐，给娃娃穿衣服和脱衣服，专心观察妈妈把甜食锁在橱柜里的人是最幸福的。当他们最终得到美味的一口，会贪婪地吃下去并大声说：“再来！”这些确实是幸福的存在； —

but others also are objects of envy, who dignify their paltry employments, and sometimes even their passions, with pompous titles, representing them to mankind as gigantic achievements

performed for their welfare and glory.

但还有其他人也是令人羡慕的对象，他们以夸张的称号来标榜他们微不足道的职业，有时甚至是他们的激情，将它们描述为为人类福利和荣耀而做出的巨大成就。 —

But the man who humbly acknowledges the vanity of all this, who observes with what pleasure the thriving citizen converts his little garden into a paradise, and how patiently even the poor man pursues his weary way under his burden, and how all wish equally to behold the light of the sun a little longer, – yes, such a man is at peace, and creates his own world within himself; 然而，那些谦卑地承认这一切的虚荣的人，观察着，繁荣的市民如何愉快地把他的小花园变成了一个天堂，穷人如何耐心地背着负重艰难地前行，所有人都希望能多看一会阳光的人，是平静的，他们在自己内心中创造了自己的世界； —

and he is also happy, because he is a man. And then, however limited his sphere, he still preserves in his bosom the sweet feeling of liberty, and knows that he can quit his prison whenever he likes.

并且他也很快乐，因为他是一个男人。然后，尽管他的范围有限，他仍然在胸中保持着甜蜜的自由感，知道他可以随时离开他的监狱。

MAY 26.

5月26日。

You know of old my ways of settling anywhere, of selecting a little cottage in some cosy spot, and of putting up in it with every inconvenience.

你早就知道我在任何地方定居的方式，选择一个舒适的小屋，在那里用尽各种不便。 —

Here, too, I have discovered such a snug, comfortable place, which possesses peculiar charms for me.

这里也是，我发现了一个非常舒适的地方，对我来说有着独特的魅力。

About a league from the town is a place called Walheim.

离城约一英里的地方有个叫瓦尔海姆的地方（读者无需费心寻找原文中指定的地方）。 —

(The reader need not take the trouble to look for the place thus designated.

—

We have found it necessary to change the names given in the original.

它位于一座山坡上， —

) It is delightfully situated on the side of a hill;

位置非常宜人。 —

and, by proceeding along one of the footpaths which lead out of the village, you can have a view of the whole valley.

通过沿着村子出发的小径之一前行，你可以看到整个山谷。 —

A good old woman lives there, who keeps a small inn.

那里住着一位好老太太，她经营着一家小客栈。 —

She sells wine, beer, and coffee, and is cheerful and pleasant notwithstanding her age.

她卖酒、啤酒和咖啡，尽管年纪大了，仍然很开心和愉快。 —

The chief charm of this spot consists in two linden-trees, spreading their enormous branches over the little green before the church, which is entirely surrounded by peasants' cottages, barns, and homesteads.

这个地方的主要魅力在于教堂前的小绿地上两棵椴树，巨大的树枝将它们伸展开来，周围全是农舍、谷仓和农田。 —

I have seldom seen a place so retired and peaceable;

我很少见到一个如此幽静和宁谧的地方； —

and there often have my table and chair brought out from the little inn, and drink my coffee there, and read my Homer. Accident brought me to the spot one fine afternoon, and I found it perfectly deserted.

我常常把我的桌椅带到小酒店外面，喝杯咖啡，读读荷马笔下的故事。一天下午我偶然来到这个地方，发现这里完全没有人。 —

Everybody was in the fields except a little boy about four years of age, who was sitting on the ground, and held between his knees a child about six months old:

除了一个大约四岁的小男孩，在地上坐着，用膝盖夹着一个大约六个月大的婴儿。 —

he pressed it to his bosom with both arms, which thus formed a sort of arm-chair;

他用双臂将婴儿紧紧地抱在胸前，形成了一种类似扶手椅的姿势。 —

and, notwithstanding the liveliness which sparkled in its black eyes, it remained perfectly still.

尽管这个婴儿的黑眼睛里闪烁着活泼的光芒，但它一直静静地呆在那里。 —

The sight charmed me.

这个场景让我感动不已。 —

I sat down upon a plough opposite, and sketched with great delight this little picture of brotherly tenderness.

我坐在对面的犁辕上，欣喜地画下了这一幅关于兄弟情谊的小画。 —

I added the neighbouring hedge, the barn-door, and some broken cart-wheels, just as they happened to lie;

我加了邻近的树篱、谷仓门和一些破烂的马车轮子，就按它们摆放的位置画下来； —

and I found in about an hour that I had made a very correct and interesting drawing, without putting in the slightest thing of my own.

大约一个小时后，我发现我画了一幅非常准确和有趣的图画，没有加入一丁点我自己的东西。

This confirmed me in my resolution of adhering, for the future, entirely to nature.

这使我坚定了将来完全坚持自然的决心。 —

She alone is inexhaustible, and capable of forming the greatest masters.

只有她是无穷无尽的，并且能够培养出最伟大的大师。 —

Much may be alleged in favour of rules, as much may be likewise advanced in favour of the laws of society:

有很多理由支持规则，同样也有很多理由支持社会法律： —

an artist formed upon them will never produce anything absolutely bad or disgusting;

根据这些规则培养出来的艺术家永远不会创作出任何绝对糟糕或令人厌恶的东西； —

as a man who observes the laws, and obeys decorum, can never be an absolutely intolerable neighbour, nor a decided villain:

就像遵守法律和遵守礼仪的人永远不会是一个绝对无法忍受的邻居，也不会是一个明确的恶棍。

but yet, say what you will of rules, they destroy the genuine feeling of nature, as well as its true expression.

然而，不管你如何评价规则，它们破坏了自然的真实感受，以及真正的表达方式。 —

Do not tell me "that this is too hard, that they only restrain and prune superfluous branches, etc." My good friend, I will illustrate this by an analogy.

不要告诉我“这太难了，它们只是约束和修剪多余的枝条等等”。我的好朋友，我将用一个类比来阐述这一点。 —

These things resemble love.

这些事物类似于爱情。 —

A warmhearted youth becomes strongly attached to a maiden:

一个热心的年轻人对一个少女产生了强烈的情感： —

he spends every hour of the day in her company, wears out his health, and lavishes his fortune, to afford continual proof that he is wholly devoted to her.

他整天都和她在一起，耗尽了他的健康，挥霍了他的财富，以持续证明他完全献身于她。 —

Then comes a man of the world, a man of place and respectability, and addresses him thus:

“My good young friend, love is natural;

然后来了一个世俗的人，一个地位和声望的人，对他说：“我的好年轻朋友，爱情是自然的； —

but you must love within bounds. Divide your time:

但你必须有适度的爱。分配好你的时间： —

devote a portion to business, and give the hours of recreation to your mistress.

将一部分用于工作，将娱乐时间留给你的心上人。 —

Calculate your fortune; and out of the superfluity you may make her a present, only not too often, – on her birthday, and such occasions.” Pursuing this advice, he may become a useful member of society, and I should advise every prince to give him an appointment;

计算一下你的财富；然后从多余的部分中给她买个礼物，只是不要太频繁——她的生日和其他场合可以。遵循这个建议，他可能成为社会的有用成员，我应该建议每个王子给他一个职位； —

but it is all up with his love, and with his genius if he be an artist.

但他的爱情和天赋都完蛋了，如果他是一位艺术家。哦， —

O my friend!

我的朋友！ —

why is it that the torrent of genius so seldom bursts forth, so seldom rolls in full-flowing stream, overwhelming your astounded soul?

为什么天才的奔流如此罕见地涌现，如此罕见地滚动成奔腾的河流，使你震惊？ —

Because, on either side of this stream, cold and respectable persons have taken up their abodes, and, forsooth, their summer-houses and tulip-beds would suffer from the torrent;

因为，在这条河流的两岸，冷酷而令人尊敬的人已经安顿下来，因此他们的夏室和郁金香花坛会受到河水的威胁； —

wherefore they dig trenches, and raise embankments betimes, in order to avert the impending danger.

因此他们及早挖掘渠道，筑起堤坝，以避免即将到来的危险。

MAY 27.

5月27日。

I find I have fallen into raptures, declamation, and similes, and have forgotten, in consequence, to tell you what became of the children.

我发现我陶醉于艺术的思考中，正如我在昨天的信中简要描述的那样，我在犁档上坐了两个小时。 —

Absorbed in my artistic contemplations, which I briefly described in my letter of yesterday, I continued sitting on the plough for two hours.

沉浸在艺术的思考中，我忘记了告诉你孩子们后来怎样了。 —

Toward evening a young woman, with a basket on her arm, came running toward the children, who had not moved all that time.

傍晚时分，一个年轻女子挎着篮子跑向孩子们，而孩子们一动不动已经有一段时间了。 —

She exclaimed from a distance, "You are a good boy, Philip!" She gave me greeting: I returned it, rose, and approached her.

她从远处喊道：“菲利普，你真是个好孩子！”她向我打招呼，我回应了，站起身走向她。 —

I inquired if she were the mother of those pretty children.

我问她是不是那些可爱孩子们的妈妈。 —

"Yes," she said;

她说是。 —

and, giving the eldest a piece of bread, she took the little one in her arms and kissed it with a mother's tenderness.

她给了最大的孩子一块面包，然后抱起小的孩子，用母亲般的柔情亲吻了他。 —

"I left my child in Philip's care," she said, "whilst I went into the town with my eldest boy to buy some wheaten bread, some sugar, and an earthen pot." I saw the various articles in the basket, from which the cover had fallen.

她说：“我把我的孩子交给了菲利普照顾，然后带着我的大儿子去镇上买小麦面包、糖和一个陶罐。”我看到篮子里的各种物品，篮盖已经掉下来了。 —

"I shall make some broth to-night for my little Hans (which was the name of the youngest):

“今晚我会为我小汉斯煮些汤（那是年纪最小的孩子的名字）：” —

that wild fellow, the big one, broke my pot yesterday, whilst he was scrambling with Philip for what remained of the contents." I inquired for the eldest;

“那个调皮鬼，那个大个子，昨天跟菲利普争抢剩下的东西时弄破了我的陶罐。”我找到了最年长的那个女孩， —