

“Elegant economy!” How naturally one fold back into the phraseology of Cranford! There economy was always “elegant”, and money-spending always “Vulgar and Ostentatoin;” a sort of sour grapeism which made up very peaceful and satisfied I shall never forget the dismay felt when certain Captain Brown came to live at Cranford, and openly spoke of his being poor — not in a whisper to an intimate friend, the doors and windows being previously closed, but in the public street! in a loud military voice! alleging his poverty as a reason for not taking a particular house. The ladies of Cranford were already moving over the invasion of their territories by a man and a gentleman. He was a half-pay captain, and had obtained some situation on a neighbouring rail-road, which had been vehemently petitioned against by the little town; and if in addition to his masculine gender, and his connection with the obnoxious railroad, he was so brazen as to talk of his being poor — why, then indeed, he must be sent to Coventry. Death was as true and as common as poverty; yet people never spoke about that loud on the streets. It was a word not to be mentioned to ears polite. We had tacitly agreed to ignore that any with whom we associated on terms of visiting equality could ever be prevented by poverty from doing anything they wished. If we walked to or from a party, it was because the weather was so fine, or the air so refreshing, not because sedan chairs were expensive. If we wore prints instead of summer silks, it was because we preferred a washing material; and so on, till we blinded ourselves to the vulgar fact that we were, all of us, people of very moderate means.

(a) Give in thirty of your own words what we learn from this passage of Captain Brown. (4 marks)

(b) Why did the ladies of Cranford dislike the Captain. (2 marks)

(c) What reasons were given by the ladies of Cranford for “not doing anything that they wished”? (2 marks)

(d) “Ears Polite”. How do you justify this construction? (2 marks)

(e) What is the meaning and implication of the phrases? (2 marks each)

(1) Sour-grapeism

(2) The invasion of their territories

(3) Sent to Coventry

(4) Tacitly agreed

(5) Elegant economy

me to solve this comprehension?

(a)

Captain Brown was a person who speaks openly about poverty. He was a half-pay captain. Due to his vibrant nature, people considered him as a different person because before that nobody was unable to talk about poverty in the street. He also criticised that fact the status of a person define himself in the society.

(b)

The ladies of Cranford disliked the Captain because he was so brazen to talk about poverty in a very loud voice in the public street.

(d)

Ears polite means to listen somebody with politeness. In the story of a Captain Brown, the peoples were not ready to ears polite with the Captain Brown talk's.

(1) Sour-grapeism

(2) The invasion of their territories

(e) An open eye to the reality forcefully influence of someone in the territory.

Sent to the
Coventry

To deliberate
exclude someone.

Tactily agreed

To accept the
fact without
saying something

Elegant
economy

simple
economy.