

CSS-2006

"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.

Questions

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

Ans: This passage provides us tremendous knowledge.

First of all, poverty is a social problem which can be eliminated by working hard and earning money. Secondly, describing poverty to be the cause of a person's backwardness in public is irrational. Thus, hard work is the fool to end the poverty.

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

Ans: The ladies of Cranford disliked the Captain because of his numerous manners. Firstly, the Captain used to spoke openly being poor. Secondly, in street, the Captain used to alleg with full voice poverty as a reson for not taking proper²⁷ home. Thus, the ladies of Cranford disliked the Captain.

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

Ans: The ladies of Cranford gave several reasons that they wished the captain to do. Firstly, they suggested that the captain must be sent to industrial city where he could earn. Secondly, ascribed that death was as real as poverty but the captain did not speak about that loud on the street.

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

Ans: Ears polite refers to the human thoughts and emotions. Both thoughts and emotions of the humans do not consume the painful realities of the world especially death. Thus, the word death was not to be mentioned before the ears of polite.

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

- (1) Sour-grapeism — Hardly spending
- (2) The invasion of their territories — Coming of Captain Brown
- (3) Sent to Coventry — Send to industrial city
- (4) Tacitly agreed — Agree with anyone's stance
- (5) Elegant economy — weak economy

