

ディケンズ・フェロウシップ日本支部 2007 年秋季大会（10 月 6 日、於：京都大学）

「ディケンズとイギリスの歴史 『英国史物語』 」 矢次 綾

引用

1 Dunstan had been Treasurer in the last reign, and [Edwy] soon charged Dunstan with having taken some of the last king's money. The Glastonbury Abbot fled to Belgium [. . .]. But he quickly conspired with his friend, Odo [. . .] to set up the King's young brother, EDGAR, as his rival for the throne; and, not content with this revenge, he caused the beautiful queen Elgiva [. . .] to be stolen from one of the Royal Palaces, branded in the cheek with a red-hot iron, and sold into slavery in Ireland. But the Irish people pitied and befriended her; and they said, "Let us restore the girl-queen to the boy-king, and make the young lovers happy!" and they cured her of her cruel wound, and sent her home as beautiful as before. But the villain Dunstan, and that other villain, Odo, caused her to be waylaid at Gloucester as she was joyfully hurrying to join her husband, and to be hacked and hewn with swords, and to be barbarously maimed and lamed, and left to die. When Edwy [. . .] heard of her dreadful fate, he died of a broken heart; and so the pitiful story of the poor young wife and husband ends! Ah! Better to be two cottagers in these better times, than king and queen of England in those bad days, though never so fair! (*A Child's History of England* 153)

2 Dr. Lingard [. . .] is, where his church is at all concerned, an advocate, not a historian; he seeks victory, not truth; he labours to mislead, not to inform: his pages are pervaded by a cold ascetic spirit, which virtue and heroism fail to warm [. . .]. (Keightley iv)

3 How gently Lingard tells all this! "Archbishop Odo undertook to remove the scandal by enforcing the punishment which the laws awarded against women living in the state of concubinage. Accompanied by his retainers, he rode to the place, arrested Ethelgiva [. . .], conducted her to the sea-side, and put her on board a ship, in which she was conveyed to Ireland. At his return to court he waited on Edwy, and in respectful and affectionate language endeavoured to justify his own conduct and to soothe the exasperated mind of the young prince." (Keightley 33)

4 It was during the reign of [Edward II] that two events occurred which have led many modern writers to entertain serious and not ill-founded doubts of the sanctity of Dunstan's character. (Keightley 36)

5 It is supposed, now, that some noisy fellow in the crowd, pretending to be a very delicate Christian, set up a howl at this, and struck a Jew who was trying to get in at the Hall door with his present. A riot arose. The Jews who had got into the Hall, were driven forth; and some of the rabble cried out that the new King had commanded the unbelieving race to be put to death. Thereupon the crowd rushed through the narrow streets of the city, slaughtering all the Jews they met; and when they could find no more out of doors (on account of their having fled to their houses, and fastened themselves in), they ran madly about, breaking open all the houses where the Jews lived, rushing in and stabbing or spearing them, sometimes even flinging old people and children out of window into blazing fires they had lighted up below. This great cruelty lasted four-and-twenty hours, and only three men were punished for it. Even they forfeited their lives not for murdering and robbing the Jews, but for burning the houses of some Christians. (*A Child's History of England* 222-23)

6 When [Richard, the eldest son,] was about ten years old he became very inquisitive about history of his own country, and begged hard to be allowed to read Hume's "History of England." His father consented, and he began it accordingly: but he soon found in it so many words and things he could not understand, that he was quite discouraged; and, bringing the book back, said, with tears in his eyes, that he believed he had better give it up till he was older. (Markham ix)

7 Though I have not the happiness to be a mother, my love of children has led me to think a good deal about them, their amusements, and their lessons.

This little HISTORY was written for a real little ARTHUR, and I have endeavoured to *write* it nearly as I would *tell* it to an intelligent child. (Callcott vii)

8 I am writing a little history of England for my boy, which I will send you when it is printed for him, though your boys are too old to profit by it. It is curious that I have tried to impress upon him (writing, I dare say, at the same moment with you) the exact spirit of your paper. For I don't know what I should do, if he were to get hold of any conservative or High church notions; and the best way of guarding against any such horrible result, is, I take it, to wring the parrots' necks in his very cradle. (*Letters*: 3, 482; 3 May 1843)

9 I have some idea of writing him a Child's History of England, to the end that he may have tender-hearted notions of War and Murder, and may not fix his affections on wrong heroes, or see the bright side of Glory's sword and know nothing of the rusty one. If I should carry it out, I shall live in the hope that you will read it one wet day. (*Letters*: 3, 539; 7 August 1843)

10 How different, indeed, was the spirit of the English people, when their good and gracious Queen Elizabeth smiled sweetly upon bull-dogs, and found national music in the growl, the roar, and the yell of a bear-garden; whereto, in all the courtesy of a nobler and more virtuous age, the sovereign led the French ambassador; that, as chroniclers tell us, Monsieur might arrive at a sort of comparative knowledge of English bravery, judging the courage of the people by the stubborn daring of their dogs.

Then we had no Epsom, with its high moralities—no Ascot, with its splendour and wealth. Great, indeed, was the distance—deep the abyss—between the sovereign and the sovereign people. (Jerold 5)

11 I have dwelt little on scenes of cruelty and fraud, as being objects which it is harmful to a young mind to contemplate; and I have made but a few observations on the good or bad motives of actions. A child whose mind is imbued with right feeling, will naturally see what is wrong and what is right, without having either expressly pointed out. I trust, however, that it will be easily seen to be the sincerest wish of my heart that young readers may be taught to think and feel in the true spirit of religion and virtue.

I have in general avoided saying the worst of a character, because few people are in reality so bad as they are often made to appear.—In the reigns subsequent to the Revolution, I have been all together silent on party politics, which after that period, become exceedingly complicated, and afford to children no interest whatever, and which they cannot in the least comprehend. (Markham v)

12

Richard: There is no pleasure in reading of any person being imprisoned and murdered; yet I think Richard deserved his fate, and did everything he could to draw it on himself.

George: Yes: the revoking all the charters of freedom that he had given to those poor slaves was the beginning of all his bad deeds.

Mrs. Markham: I do not wonder, George, at your being particularly shocked by that ungenerous act: but remember also that no person, whether king or subject, ought ever to make *any* promise without the firm intention of performing it. (Markham 144-45)

13 I beg to explain to you in reply to your sensible letter that I have purposely disencumbered the Child's History of dates (though I think it mentions more dates than you suppose) in order to increase its romantic and attractive air. It is my hope, by presenting the truth in an agreeable and winning form, to lead young people to take an interest in the dates belonging to it, and to pursue it further. I could not therefore embody more figures in the text of the little History without a departure from my original intention. If any striking way should occur to me of adding a reference to the periods of the principal events, to the last volume, I will consider it. (*Letters* 7, 1-2; 5 January 1853)

14 [. . .] under the GREAT ALFRED, all the best points of the English-Saxon character were first encouraged, and in him first shown. It has been the greatest character among the nations of the earth. Wherever the descendants of the Saxon race have gone [. . .], they have been patient, persevering, never to be broken in spirit, never to be turned aside from enterprises on which they have resolved. In Europe, Asia, Africa, America, the whole world over; in the desert, in the forest, on the sea; scorched by a burning sun, or frozen by ice that never melts; the Saxon blood remains unchanged. Wheresoever that race goes, [. . .] law, and industry, and safety for life and property, and all the great results of steady perseverance, are certain to arise. (*A Child's History of England* 148-49)

15 I shall relate how the new settlement was [. . .] successfully defended against foreign and domestic enemies; how, under that settlement, the authority of law and the security of property were found to be compatible with a liberty of discussion and of individual action never before known; how [. . .] our country [. . .] was gradually established a public credit fruitful of marvels which to the statesmen of any former age would have seemed incredible; how a gigantic commerce gave birth to a maritime power, compared with which every other maritime power, ancient or modern, sinks into insignificance [. . .]; how, in America, the British colonies rapidly became far mightier and wealthier than the realms which Cortes and Pizarro had added to the dominions of Charles the Fifth; how in Asia, British adventurers founded an empire not less splendid and more durable than that of Alexander. (Macaulay 51)

16 [. . .] the history of our country during the last hundred and sixty years is eminently the history of physical, of moral, and of intellectual improvement. Those who compare the age on which their lot has fallen with a golden age which exists only in their imagination may talk of degeneracy and decay: but no man who is correctly informed as to the past will be disposed to take a morose or desponding view of the present. (Macaulay 52)

17 “And in times to come [. . .] if our grandsons should think of their grandfathers’ times, and find these things altered, they’ll say ‘Those were days indeed, and we’ve been going down hill ever since.’ [. . .]” (*Barnaby Rudge* 312)

言及する歴史書のリスト（出版年順）

- David Hume, *The History of England* (no date)
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 Thomas Keightley, *The History of England*, 2 vols. (1837-39)
 Thomas Macaulay, *The History of England from the Accession of James II* (1848-61)
 Charles Dickens, *A Child's History of England* (1851-53)

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