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*Great Expectations*

作品のテーマと'self-help'のコンテクスト

1. The first subject on which I had to consult Traddles was this. I had heard that many men distinguished in various pursuits had begun life by reporting the debates in Parliament. Traddles having mentioned newspapers to me, as one of his hopes, I had put the two things together, and told Traddles in my letter that I wished to know how I could qualify myself for this pursuit. Traddles now informed me, as the result of his inquiries, that the mere mechanical acquisition necessary, except in rare cases, for thorough excellence in it, that is to say, a perfect and entire command of the mystery of short-hand writing and reading, was about equal in difficulty to the mastery of six languages; and that it might perhaps be attained, by dint of perseverance, in the course of a few years. (*David Copperfield*, 527)

2. I have never believed it possible that any natural or improved ability can claim immunity from the companionship of the steady, plain, hard-working qualities, and hope to gain its end. (*David Copperfield*, 606)

3. 'The best part of every man's education,' said Sir Walter Scott, 'is that which he gives to himself.' ...The education received at school or college is but a beginning, and is valuable mainly inasmuch as it trains the mind and habituates it to continuous application and study. ...The best teachers have been the readiest to recognize the importance of self-culture, and of stimulating the student to acquire knowledge by the active exercise of his own faculties. (*Self-Help*, 261)

4. Mr. Wopsle's great-aunt kept an evening school in the village; that is to say, she was a ridiculous old woman of limited means and unlimited infirmity, who used to go to sleep from six to seven every evening, in the society of youth who paid twopence per week each, for the improving opportunity of seeing her do it. (*Great Expectations*, 39)

5. The crown and glory of life is Character.....It exercises a greater power than wealth, and secures all the honour without the jealousies of fame.....Men of character

are not only the conscience of society, but in every well-governed State they are its best motive power.....Though a man have comparatively little culture, slender abilities, and but small wealth, yet, if his character be of sterling worth, he will always command an influence, whether it be in the workshop, the counting-house, the mart, or the senate. (*Self-Help*, 314-15)

6. 'Don't you tell no more of 'em, Pip. That ain't the way to get out of being common, old chap.'.....'If you can't get to be uncommon though going straight, you'll never get to do it though going crooked.'*(Great Expectations, 65-66)*

7. For, though it include what I proceed to add, all the merit of what I proceed to add was Joe's. It was not because I was faithful, but because Joe was faithful, that I never ran away and went for a soldier or a sailor. It was not because I had a strong sense of the virtue of industry, but because Joe had a strong sense of the virtue of industry, that I worked with tolerable zeal against the grain. It is not possible to know how far the influence of any amiable honest-hearted duty-doing man flies out into the world; but it is very possible to know how it has touched one's self in going by, and I know right well that any good that intermixed itself with my apprenticeship came of plain contented Joe, and not of restless aspiring discontented me. (*Great Expectations, 101*)

8. If I could have kept him away by paying money, I certainly would have paid money. (*Great Expectations, 206*)

9. Riches and rank have no necessary connexion with genuine gentlemanly qualities. The poor man may be a true gentleman, in spirit and in daily life. (*Self Help, 327*)

10. She laughed contemptuously, pushed me out, and locked the gate upon me. I went straight to Mr. Pumblechook's, and was immensely relieved to find him not at home. So, leaving word with the shopman on what day I was wanted at Miss Havisham's again, I set off on the four-mile walk to our forge; pondering, as I went along, on all I had seen, and deeply revolving that I was a common labouring-boy; that my hands were coarse; that my boots were thick, that I had fallen into a despicable habit of calling knaves Jack; that I was much more ignorant than I had considered myself last night, and generally that I was in a low-lived bad way. (*Great Expectations, 59-60*)

11. At this juncture of his life, when his habits were being formed for good or evil, he was happily thrown into the society of the Gurney family, distinguished for their fine social qualities not less than for their intellectual culture and public-spirited philanthropy. This intercourse with the Gurneys, he used afterwards to say, gave the colouring to his life. They encouraged his efforts at self-culture; and when he went to the University of Dublin and gained high honours there, the animating passion in his mind, he said, 'was to carry back to them the prizes which they prompted and enabled me to win.' (*Self-Help*, 219)

12. 'O Joe, you break my heart! Look angry at me, Joe. Strike me, Joe. Tell me of my ingratitude. Don't be so good to me!'

For Joe had actually laid his head down on the pillow at my side, and put his arm round my neck, in his joy that I knew him.

'Which dear old Pip, old chap,' said Joe, 'you and me was ever friends. And when you're well enough to go out for a ride what larks!'

After which, Joe withdrew to the window, and stood with his back towards me, wiping his eyes. And as my extreme weakness prevented me from getting up and going to him, I lay there, penitently whispering, 'O God bless him! O God bless this gentle Christian man!' (*Great Expectations*, 439)

Charles Dickens

1812 Born at Mile End Terrace, Landport, Portsmouth

1824 Dickens starts work at Warren's Blacking Warehouse. John is arrested for debt and sent to Marshalsea prison.

1828 Dickens becomes a free-lance shorthand-reporter at Doctor's Commons.

1832 Dickens is employed as shorthand-reporter for the *Mirror of Parliament*.

1834 Dickens becomes a parliamentary reporter for the *Morning Chronicle*.

1836 Published *Sketches by Boz*.

1849 Begins work on *David Copperfield*.

1860 Begins work on *Great Expectations*.

1865 Dickens and Ellen Ternan are involved in a serious railway accident at Staplehurst, Kent(6.9.)

1870 Dickens dies. (6.9.)

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## Samuel Smiles

- 1812 Born to Samuel Smiles and Janet Smiles, at Haddington, Scotland.
- 1829 Attends medical lectures at the University of Edinburgh.
- 1839 Moves to Leeds to edit the reformist *Leeds Times*.
- 1843 Returns to medical profession.
- 1845 Addresses the Mutual Improvement Society of Leeds on 'The Education of the Working Classes', which becomes the basis of *Self-Help*; resigns as editor of the Leeds Times; abandons medicine to become secretary to Leeds and Thirsk Railway.
- 1854 Leaves the Leeds Northern Railway to take up post as secretary to South-Eastern Railway.
- 1859 *Self-Help*
- 1866 Leaves the South-Eastern Railway to take up assurance position.
- 1904 Death of Samuel Smiles.

