

Which Are Modern?

(1) The rector did not think the match good enough for his son—the Martins had no money and were nobodies. The Martins objected to giving Ada up except to a man who could do something to help the family. So the affair ended hopelessly.

(2) Before us the thick dark current runs. It talks up to us in a murmur become ceaseless and myriad, the yellow surface dimpled monstrously into fading swirls travelling along the surface for an instant, silent, impermanent and profoundly significant, as though just beneath the surface something huge and alive waked for a moment of lazy alertness out of and into light slumber again.

(3) Lady Lindon unfurled her fan again, and began to wave it to and fro. “I shall make inquiries into her past,” she announced. “Christopher’s eyes must be opened. You will see the young female, Harry, and I have little doubt that you will contrive to frighten her into releasing your unfortunate cousin from whatever promises he may have made.”

(4) Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met a nicens little boy named baby tuckoo. . . .

His father told him that story: his father looked at him through a glass: he had a hairy face.

(5) “What she doin coming back here in dem overhalls? Can’t she find no dress to put on?—Where’s dat blue satin dress she left here in?—Where all dat money her husband took and died and left her?—What dat ole forty year ole ’oman doin’ wid her hair swingin’ down her back lak some young gal?—”