

BOOK REVIEW—WUTHERING HEIGHTS

By Emily Bronte

Without fear of contradiction, I acclaim *Wuthering Heights* as one of the most unusual narratives ever related, and feel that I am not alone in my opinion. It is novel because it tells a logical, but highly improbable story of human life. The way in which Miss Bronte brings us reflections of her speculations into the human soul is commendable indeed. Her unsurpassed method of revealing human character represents a vast knowledge of human psychology. Last but not least, one can scarcely overlook Miss Bronte's coherent narrative ability.

Concerning the purpose of the author in writing such an epistle, I suggest Miss Bronte intended to show the supreme strength and inextricability of the ties of love. She tells of such discouraging obstacles as moral differences and marriage, that stand between a man and a woman; how between distances and years the unextinguishable flame of this infinite love is kept burning. Through hate and tribulation it glows as luminously as the sun. Until finally, grief tend them both to rest.

The story is related by Zillah, a maid who had been employed in the Earnshaw household for years, to her present employes. The latter, Mr. Lockwood by name, has just returned from the Heathcliff household, because of his ill reception, and the vague underecurrent of mysterious doings, his curiosity was incited. Consequentially, upon his request, Zillah proceeded to tell him what she knew of the strange

inhabitants of Earnshaw Grange.

Zillah told of the way the late Heathcliff was brought into the Earnshaw household a poor, wretched, gypsy beggar. He was first feared, despised, and hated by the Earnshaw children, Catherine and Hindley. Overpowering a molicious hate between the two male children, there grows a warm and tender affection between Heathcliff and Cathy, who as playmates were frequent objects of the drunken domination of the older brother. Heathcliff was neglected after the father's death, and Cathy acquired refinement and culture to contrast his crude, sullen characteristics.

As Cathy assumed the elegant attitude of a lady, Heathcliff found himself and his shrewdness the constant object of her reproach. Believing her to be in love with a gentleman, and himself unable to equal her ethical standards, Heathcliff left home.

Years later he returned a polished gentleman, only to find Cathy married. Despite their both being aware of the still existing love between them, Heathcliff married for revenge. The shock was too much for the fragile Cathy, and she grieved herself to sickness, then death. Knowing he was responsible, Heathcliff resorted to the sullen, sulky attitude of his younger days. Living in death with Cathy, he eventually ends his own life by exposing himself to a storm.

"Cathy came after him," Zillah tells Mr. Lockwood. "People see