

Is He Popenjoy?

by Anthony Trollope

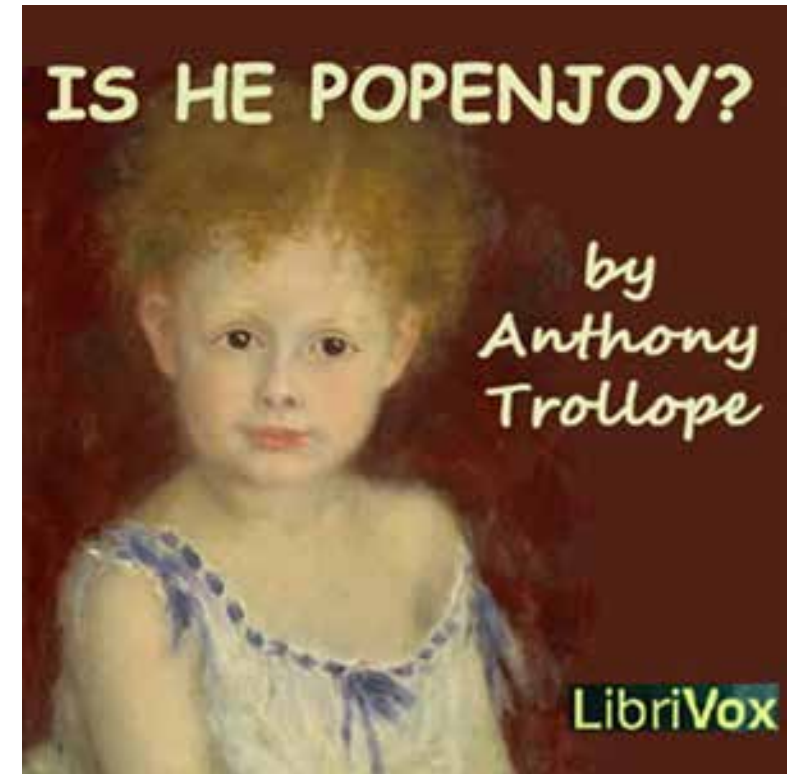
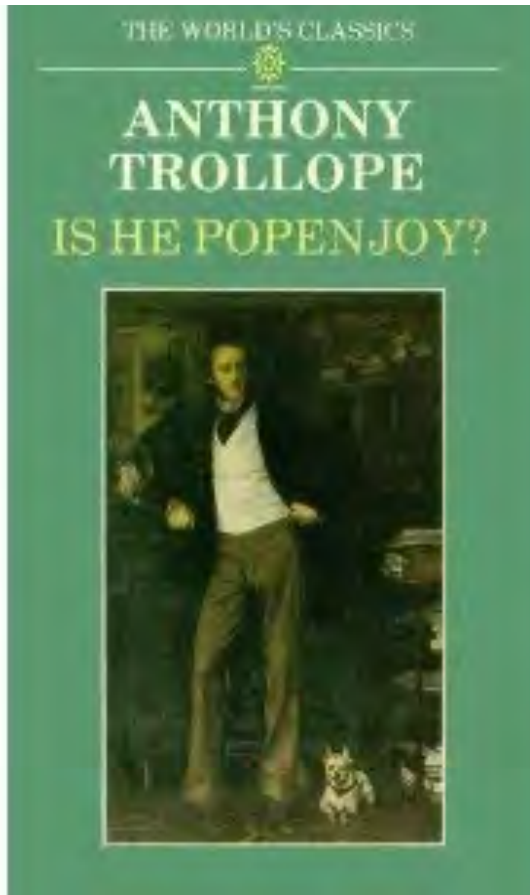
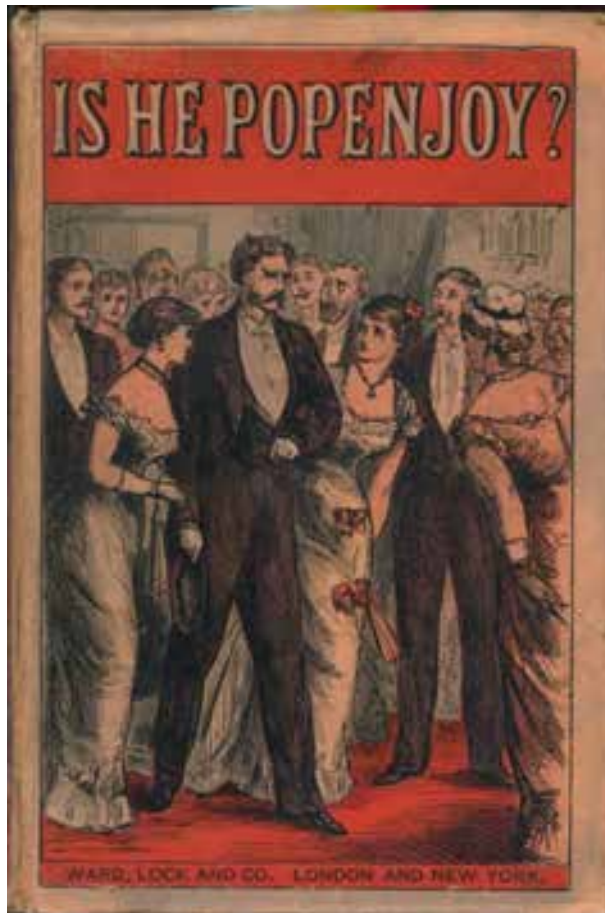


# Writing and Publication of *IHP*?

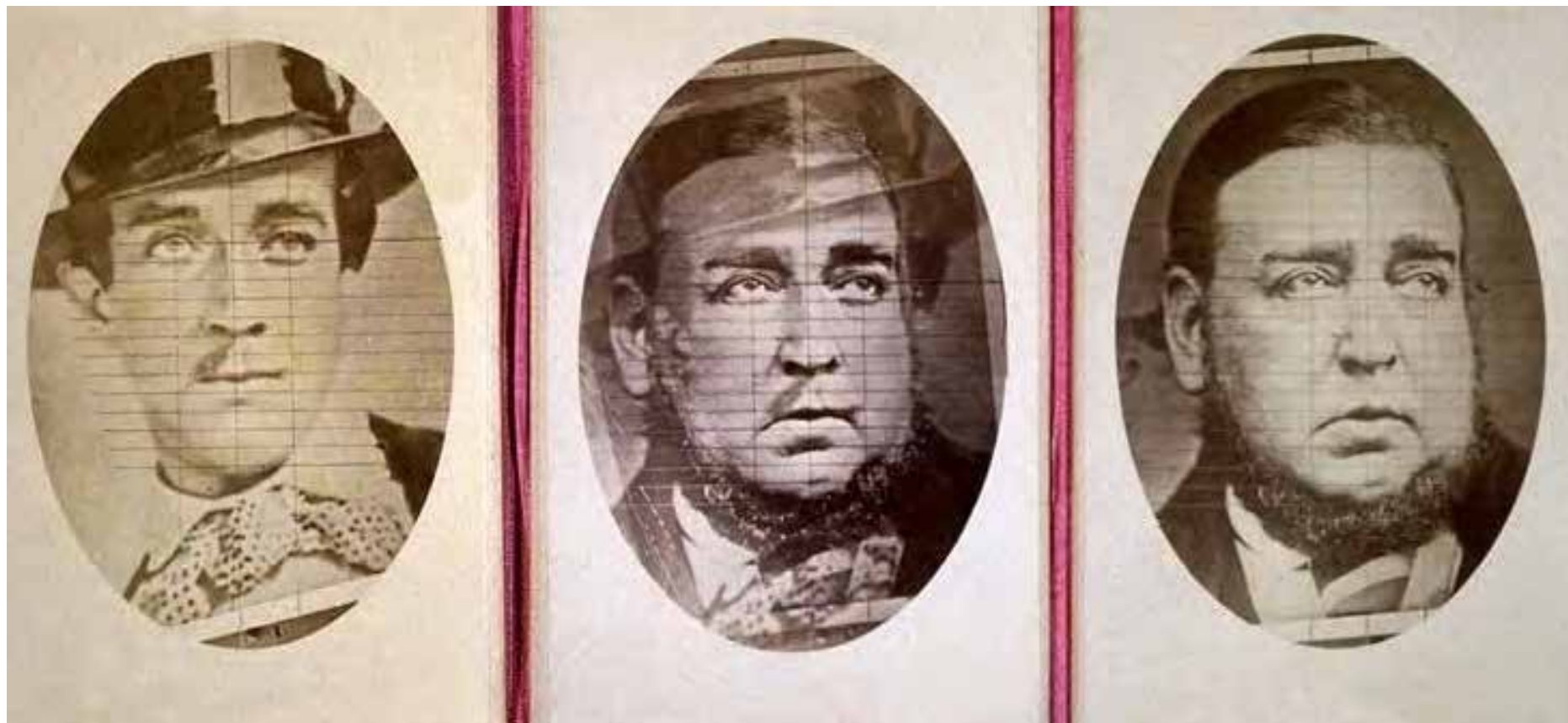
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- Finished *The Prime Minister* – September 15, 1874
- Began *Is He Popenjoy?* -- October 12, 1874
- Interrupted by illness in winter, then hunting, then preparing for trip to see his son in Australia
- Began again on board, finished May 3, 1875, day before landing
- Started *The American Senator* at his son's sheep farm – June 4
- *Is He Popenjoy?* not published until May 1878

# Book Covers of the Novel



# Is He Tichborne? Famous Trial 1871-74



- Zadie Smith,
- *The Fraud*

# THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER

No. 510. LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1871. Vol. XXI.

ENGRAVINGS IN THE PRESENT NUMBER.  
THE THOMPSON TRIAL: VARIOUS SCENES. JACK DERRICK AGAINST THE "PACIFIC ASSOCIATE." MILITARY SCENES: LIFE IN HOSPITAL, AND A DUTY WARRIOR-TROOP. HANLEY BROTHERS. FUGITIVE IN THOMPSON'S COAT. THE "CITY OF BOSTON." BOAT. PARADE OF THE BARRON AND DEPARTMENT OF CHARGE. LITTLE FISH AND MARINE ADVANTAGE. W. DE "THE NATURALIST'S" NEST.



THE THOMPSON TRIAL: VARIOUS SCENES.

# Inspired many novels of the 1870's – Themes of Bigamy, Impersonation, Illegitimacy

- John Sutherland, “Introduction” to the 1986 Oxford UP edition: There was a contemporary fashion for teasing titles *Miss or Mrs?* by Wilkie Collins, *Who is She* by Anonymous. Question marks everywhere in the book, both from the author and the characters. 1175 compared with *Barchester Towers* 626.
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# Reaction of the Critics

- Trollope's standing with critics continued to fall with IHP?
- Dublin University Magazine: "only a writer devoid of all sense" would call a book by such a name.
- The *Academy*: It represents Trollope's least pleasant manner
- The *Times*: it "would more than pass muster had it appeared anonymously, but it is by no means worthy of its author."
- The *Spectator*: attacked him for trading on his reputation, writing inferior tales, this one "poor as a work of art and to some extent unwholesome."

# Background of the Story

- Locations: Deanery of Brotherton
- Manor Cross (9 miles from Brotherton) and its cottage Cross Gate
- London – Munster Court and Berkeley Square
- Themes: primogeniture, inheritance, class, money, marriage, women's rights
- My focus
  - a) interactions between people and the use of power (money, sex, rank)
    - manipulation – direct and indirect, bullying
  - b) marriage and money (MMM – MUST MARRY MONEY) –
    - does it bring happiness? – the case of Lord George and Mary



# Main Characters

- Dean Henry **Lovelace**
- Unmarried daughter Mary
- Miss Tallowax
- Adelaide Houston, nee De Baron
- Jack De Baron
- **Germain** Family
- Marchioness
- Marquis, oldest son, Italy
- 4 daughters (Sarah, Alice, Suzanne, Amelia)
- Youngest son, George

# “Courtship” of Lord George and Mary



# Married Life at Manor Court I

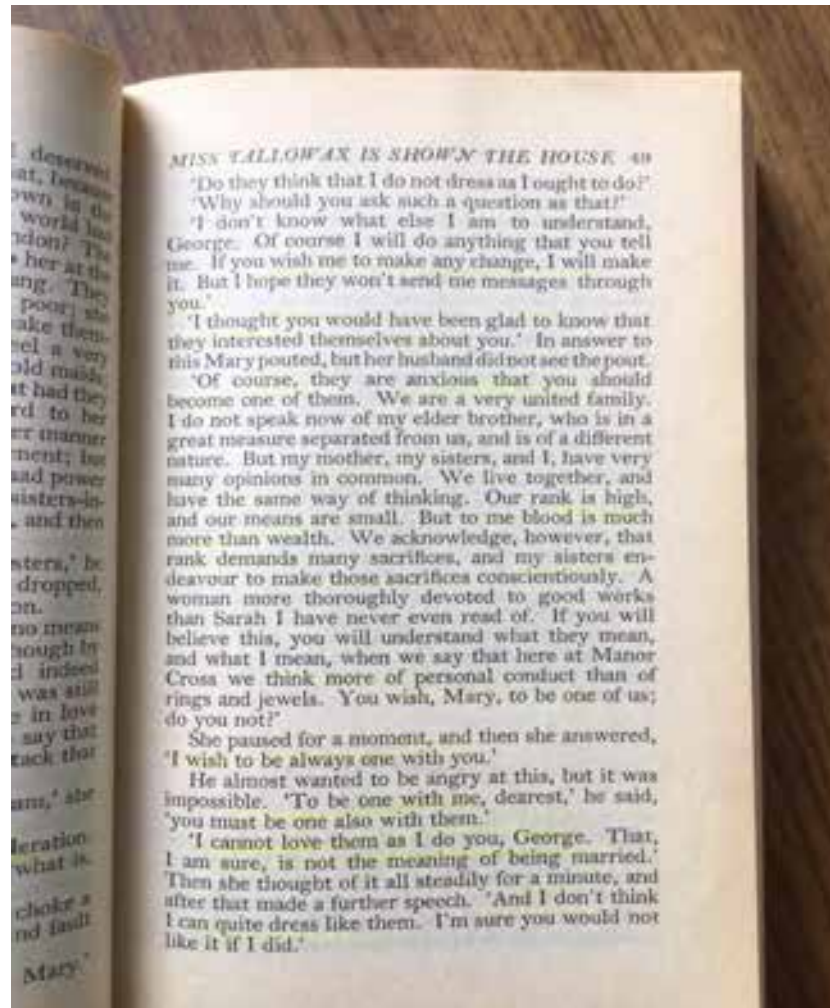
- Mary's confusion and bewilderment:
  - her father's treatment of her, encouraging her to be free
  - her husband's treatment of her –
- Role reversal!
- **AND ...**
- Mary discovers she is not just married to a particular man, but to his whole family, including his bossy sisters.



# God bless Miss Tallowax!

- Dinner for her at the Deanery
- Introduction of Adelaide into the plot – supreme manipulator
- Miss T's visit to Manor Cross – humor of it
  - two important conversations that follow
    1. Miss T and the Dean about Mary
    2. George and Mary and the priorities in the marriage
- (This picture is of Trollope's mother not Miss Tallowax but reminds me of her.)

# Married Life at Manor Court II



# Manor Court is Thrown into Uproar

- Letter from the Marquis: I am coming home with a wife and I want everybody gone, gone, gone....far away.
- Even Cross Manor which belongs to the Marchioness for her lifetime is off-limits.
- Reactions of the various characters: outrage, insult, rebellion

# The Hunt and Mrs. Houghton

Mary wants to hunt but is forbidden by her husband. Adelaide is also forbidden by her husband but goes anyway ... falls and dislocates her shoulder. Must recuperate at Manor Cross. Finds it is a blessing because she can have some amusement playing emotional games with George, thereby getting some revenge on Mary for winning George's love so soon after he loved her.



so innocent, so pure, so pretty, and with a fortune too. I wonder how much difference it would have made in your happiness if you had seen her before we had ever been acquainted. I suppose we should never have known each other then.'

'Who can say?'

'No; no one can say. For myself, I own that I like it better as it is. I have something to remember that I can be proud of.'

'And I something to be ashamed of.'

'To be ashamed of!' she said, almost rising in anger.

'That you should have refused me!'

She had got it at last. She had made her fish rise to the fly. 'Oh no,' she said, 'there can be nothing of that. If I did not tell you plainly then, I tell you plainly now. I should have done very wrong to marry a poor man.'

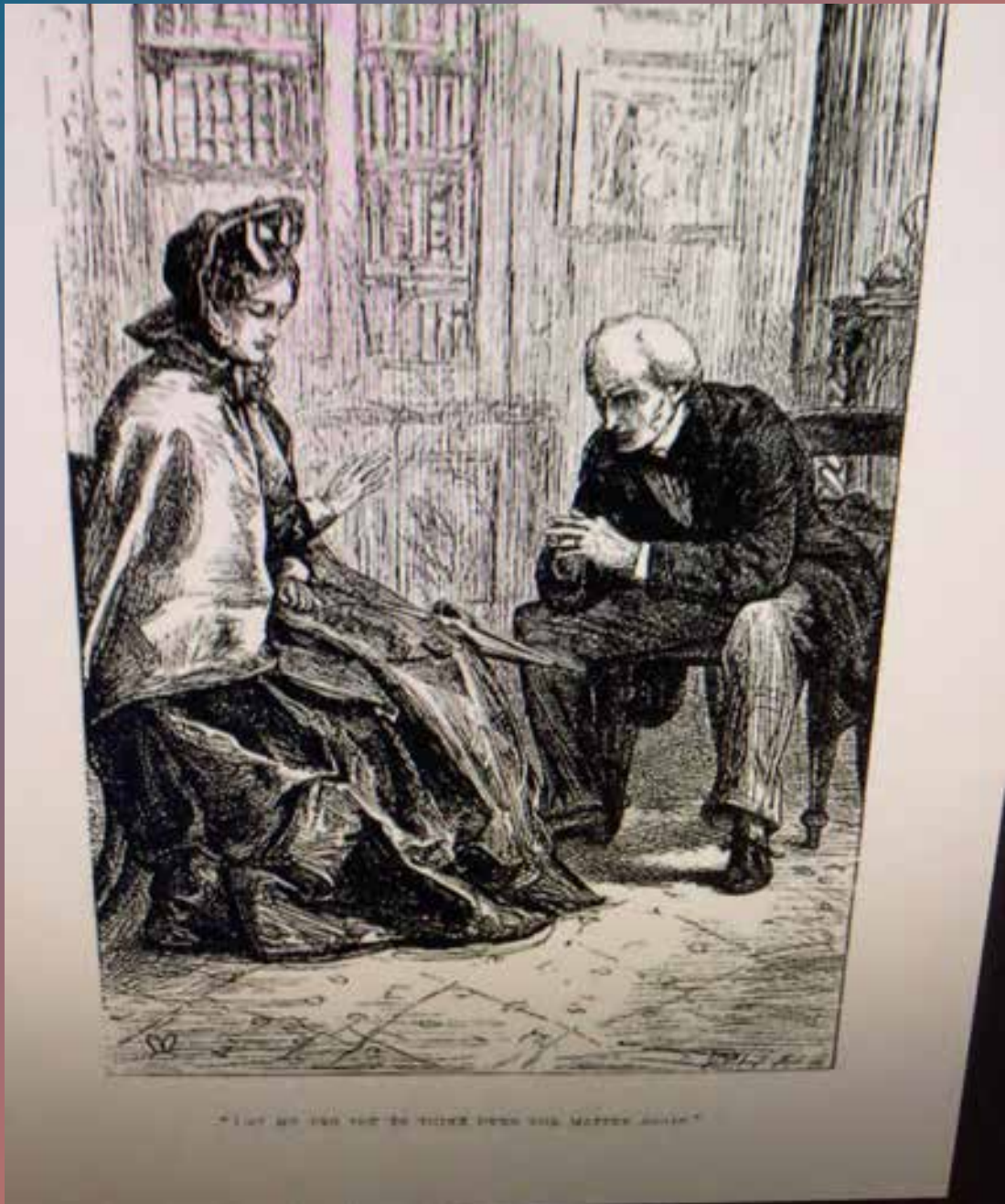
'I ought not to have asked you.'

'I don't know how that may be,' she said, in a very low voice, looking down to the ground. 'Some say that if a man loves he should declare his love, let the circumstances be what they may. I rather think that I agree with them. You at any rate knew that I felt greatly honoured, though the honour was out of my reach.' Then there was a pause, during which he could find nothing to say. He was trapped by her flattery, but he did not wish to betray his wife by making love to the woman. He liked her words and her manner, but he was aware that she was a thing sacred as being another man's wife. 'But it is all better as it is,' she said with a laugh, 'and Mary Lovelace is the happiest girl of her year. I am so glad you are coming to London, and I do so hope you'll come and see me.'

'Certainly I will.'

'I mean to be such friends with Mary. There is no woman I like so much. And then circumstances have thrown us together, haven't they? and if she and





Should they go to London as planned with the Imminent arrival of the Marquis?

- George doesn't want to leave his Mother and sisters.
- Sisters see London as Sin City
- Mary wants to go but is loyal wife.
- Dean: George needs it, you need it!
- GO!



# Life in London

Mary: new freedoms, traveling around in her carriage, meeting new friends, no petticoats to sew

Also: at last going to live like a married woman.  
“Seems to me we have never been alone together.”

George: “He knew he did not know how to live in London.”

“It might still be that she be able to galvanise him into that lover’s vitality of which she dreamed. He never rebuffed her... but through it all, she was quite aware that she had not galvanized him as yet.”

# Mary's attempts to "galvanise"



# Dinner at Adelaide Houghton's

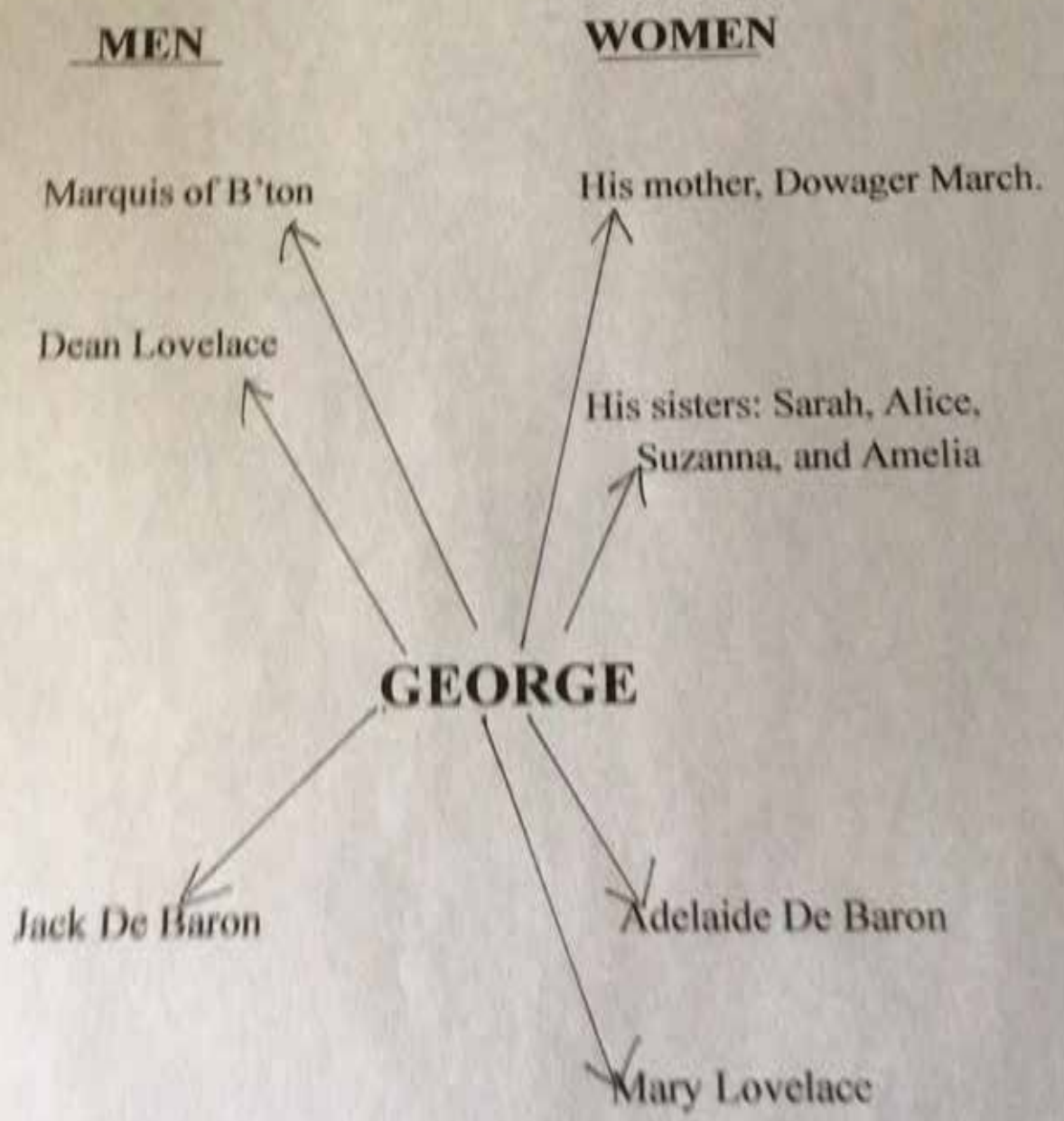
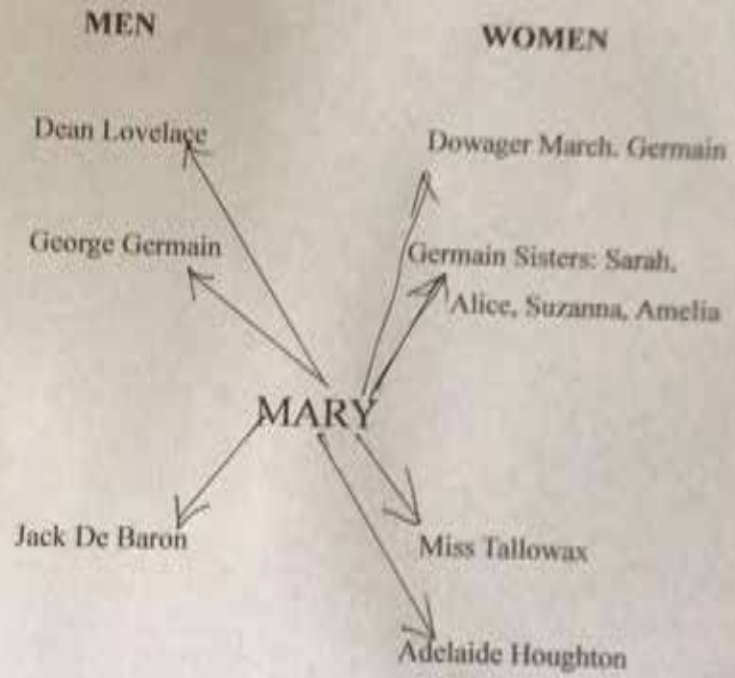


# Meeting Jack De Baron



# Hetta Houghton Has News of the Marquis

- He not only is bringing a wife but also a small child, a son, the heir to the Germain family line, Popenjoy.
- They are Italians!
- What will happen next? Tune in to next time!



# Possible Discussion Questions

- 1. Compare the marriage of George & Mary, and the Dean's involvement in it with that of Emily & Lopez, and Mr. Wharton in *The Prime Minister*, the novel Trollope had just finished before writing this one?
- 2. Why is Lord George so attracted to and free with Adelaide and so strict with his wife? Did he ever really think Adelaide could live at Manor Cross with his sisters?
- 3. How does one balance the demands of a father and of a husband in a patriarchal society? Is a woman ever allowed to be more than a daughter and a wife, a person in her own right?
- 4. What do you think is in store for Mary and how will she cope?
- 5. Anything else that you think would be fun to discuss!