Mem. on the Education of A.B.

This is the first dictation on the memorandum for my Delamater novel.

1) The idea of it as the education of a man of the Delamater type seems sound to me now. I have talked it over with J.S.P. and he thinks it feasible. Through the experience which I have roughly sketched in my mind but not set down, I would have him come to a succession of conclusions about the shallowness of his former experiences, the realization that they did not get below the skin, were not really so, Through work with his hands, with producing people - probably a foreign peasant farmer like Trup, he sees how his profession of banking is a secondary thing, not a primary thing; that it doesn't produce wealth but stores wealth for others for a consideration and is able to direct, and, if a man is so mind, to misuse, as he has done, the wealth which belongs to others.

2) An entirely changed attitude towards human relations. He had taken conventions, etiquette, ceremony as the real thing. Comes to understand what mutual helpfulness means, and the part that frank, uncolored speech, complete naturalness of expression play among working people and the strong, satisfying flavor that they give to life.

3) He corrects one by one his notions about different

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classes of society. Perhaps this ought to come in after his realization of the comparatively worthlessness of himself as a banker.

4) Make him see politics from the eyes of the common man and hear his own performance discussed - see something of the way it reaches down and enters the common man, making his life harder or more serious still, shaking his faith in the governing classes.

5) Must somehow bring him to question the quality of his own love for his wife and her love for him, the essentially conventional attitude of them both - incapable of anything else. The importance which both of them unconsciously had given to the element of social and financial advantage, united the banks in which their fathers were concerned, brought no new and possibly disturbing element into their social circle as had happened so often. Their views and ways all the same. He sees how inevitable that from his present point of view Margaret could not satisfy him. He has a shock to feel that the wife of this alien farmer is more satisfying as a woman and a companion.

6) He comes to question his religion as compared with that of these simple people. When the fear of discovery comes and he feels obliged to travel on, he begins to have his first consciousness of the change that has gone on in him, that his experience has brought to him. It comes probably through a

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consciousness that he regrets leaving these people and that he has no poignant regret about his old associations or his family. His strong fear is still of discovery, not so much because of the punishment that must come to him but of shame that they should know that he had been a coward, that he had not really killed himself. That must be still his real despair, his first great overwhelming discovery about himself - he was a physical coward.

J.S.P. questions the ending of suicide that I had planned; thinks that it would be enormously difficult to handle it and have it convincing, that is, that if I propose a real development, make a real person, that suicide would be an entirely inconsistent ending. Suicide could only be justified if I can make two things plausible; (1st) that to reveal himself to his daughter and make good - I shall put him in position to make good the financial suffering of others,-he must reveal himself, and to do that, he must stand prosecution and bring a further disgrace upon the family. It does not seem logical to him to do that. Moreover, his obsession of his own cowardice still so strong on him that he can only clear his own conscience, prove himself brave to himself, by taking his own life. J.S.P. is right in his counsel that I do not allow myself to be inflexible in regard to this ending, that if I really do the thing, develop a man, that I cannot tell how that man will come out logically to myself in the end - which is probably sound.

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