

# Contents

	PAGE
GENERAL PREFACE	5
FOREWORD	7
I. THE ADVERTISEMENT	II
2. THE VICAR	
Narrator and character	12
Goldsmith's Vicar	26
The <i>dramatis personæ</i> and 'the world'	26
The Vicar and his womenfolk	26
3. NATURE AND SOCIETY	
Finery and true worth	33
Folk arts	36
Rural virtue	37
The insufficiency of cunning	37
Poor = simple = honest	38
Rural tastes debased	39
Native worth recognised	41
Manners and morality	42
The good in the worst of us	43
The morality of the heart	44
Mercy seasoning justice	45
4. WEALTH AND CHARITY	46
'The bonds of wealth'	47
Kinds of charity	52
'Good nature' in the novel	54
The political and the personal	57
5. EMOTIONS AND RESPONSES	
Qualities of emotion	60

Sentiment and the sentimental	60
Olivia's decline	61
The Vicar's sufferings	62
George's honour	64
Humour and 'humours'	65
The Vicar's 'humours'	65
Humorously narrated 'humours'	66
The 'humours' of others	67
Humour	69
Incidental irony	69
6. LANGUAGE	
Rhetorical distinctions	70
<i>You/thou</i> shifts	71
Unassimilated prose	73
7. THE ACTION	
Chance	74
Reversals	75
'Popular' qualities	76
8. ASSESSMENTS	77
A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	79