

**THE DESERTED VILLAGE. WITH  
NOTES ON THE GRAMMATICAL  
ANALYSIS OF THE SENTENCES,  
AND A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE  
OF GOLDSMITH**

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The Deserted Village. With Notes on the Grammatical Analysis of the Sentences, and a Brief Sketch of the Life of Goldsmith by Oliver Goldsmith & C. P. Mason

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# THE DESERTED VILLAGE.

BY

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

*With Notes on the Grammatical Analysis of the Sentences,*

AND A BRIEF SKETCH

OF THE

LIFE OF GOLDSMITH.

By C. P. MASON, B.A.,

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## PREFACE.

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THIS work is intended primarily for the use of candidates preparing for the Oxford Local Examinations. The plan followed does not differ materially from that adopted in the corresponding editions of the First and Second Books of Cowper's "Task," of the First and Second Books of Milton's "Paradise Lost," of Thomson's "Spring" and "Winter," and of Goldsmith's "Traveller." The references are to the fifth edition of the Author's "English Grammar," and to that portion of the Grammar which has been printed in a separate form, under the title of "The Grammatical Analysis of Sentences."

DENMARK HILL,  
*August, 1865.*

C. P. MASON.





OUTLINE OF THE  
LIFE OF OLIVER GOLDSMITH, M.B.

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OLIVER GOLDSMITH was born on the 10th November, 1728, in an obscure Irish village named Pallas, or Pallasmore, in the county of Longford. His father, the Rev. Charles Goldsmith, was a Protestant clergyman of very slender means, whose character has been handed down by his son to the affectionate respect of succeeding generations; for in the father of the Man in Black of the *Citizen of the World*, the Village Preacher of the *Deserted Village*, and Doctor Primrose in the *Vicar of Wakefield*, Goldsmith embodied the most characteristic traits of his father, as well as of his brother Henry. Oliver was the fifth out of a family of eight children. About two years after his birth, his father became rector of Kilkenny West, and removed to Lissoy, his scanty income of some forty pounds a year being increased to two hundred. The schoolmistress of Lissoy, who taught Oliver his letters, declared that there never was so dull a boy. At the age of six the child was handed over to the care of the village schoolmaster, Mr. Byrne, a retired quartermaster of an Irish regiment which had served in Marlborough's wars. He was the original of the Village

Schoolmaster in the *Deserted Villages*. From the stories about his vagabond adventures, which he was fond of telling, Oliver was believed to have imbibed many of his wandering and unsettled tastes.

From Byrne's school, Oliver was removed to one of a superior kind at Elphin. Here his dulness, and the ugliness occasioned by a dreadful attack of small-pox, rendered him the butt of his schoolfellows. At the age of eleven he was sent to a school of repute at Athlone, where he remained for two years; and on the resignation of the master, Mr. Campbell, was removed to the school of Edgeworthstown, where he stayed four years. In 1745, after much resistance on his own part, he was sent to Trinity College, Dublin, which he entered as a sizar. In this position he had to perform various menial duties, such as sweeping the courts, carrying up dishes to the Fellows' dining-table, and waiting in the hall while they dined. Oliver got on but badly at College. He was idle and unsteady, and perpetually getting into scrapes; and matters were not mended by his having, as tutor, the passionate and ferocious Mr. Theaker Wilder. In 1747 his father died, and Goldsmith was reduced to great poverty, occasionally relieved by the kindness of his uncle Contarine. He often had to write street-ballads, and sell them for small sums, to keep himself from starving. Aroused by a public rebuke for taking part in a College row, he tried for a scholarship. This he failed to obtain, but he got a small exhibition. In his elation at this success, he indulged in the unauthorized jollification of a small dancing party at his rooms, in the midst of which his tutor made his appearance, and knocked him down. Poor Goldsmith ran away next day, but was soon afterwards brought back by his brother. He took the degree

of B.A. in 1740, being the lowest on the list, and shortly after returned to his mother's house. Here he passed two years, rendering his brother some help in his school, but spending most of his time in idleness and dissipation. When he applied to the Bishop of Elphin for ordination, he was rejected. His uncle procured him an engagement as private tutor, but he did not hold it more than a year. He soon lost, or was defrauded of the money he had earned, and, on his return home, did not meet with a very cordial reception. His worthy uncle Contarine now came to his help, and gave him fifty pounds, to enable him to go to London, and commence the study of the law: but in Dublin the reckless fellow lost all his money at play, and again returned home penniless. His uncle again came to his help, and provided him with the means of going to Edinburgh, to study medicine. Thence he proceeded in 1754 to Leyden. He did not stay here more than a year. He had an irrepressible desire to travel, and set out with no resources but a guinea in his pocket and a flute, to make a tour through great part of Europe on foot. There can be little doubt that a passage in the *Vicar of Wakefield* describes the mode in which Goldsmith managed to make his way. The *Philosophic Vagabond*, in recounting his adventures, says:—"I had some knowledge of music, with a tolerable voice. I now turned what was once my amusement into a present means of subsistence. Whenever I approached a peasant's house towards nightfall, I played one of my most merry tunes, and that procured me not only a lodging, but subsistence for the next day." This is also alluded to in the *Traveller*, l. 240, &c. In this fashion Goldsmith made his way through Flanders, France, and Switzerland, and into Italy. Here his skill in music was of little avail, for "every peasant was a