Life and Writings of Mary Hayden Green Pike (1824-1908)

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THE LIFE AND WRITINGS
OF
MARY HAYDEN GREEN PIKE
(1824-1908)

By
RACHEL REED GRIFFIN
B. A., University of Rochester, 1943

A THESIS
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ABSTRACT

THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF MARY HAYDEN GREEN PIKE
(1824-1908)

By

Rachel R. Griffin

Although sketches of the life of Mary Hayden Green Pike appear in *Appletons' Cyclopaedia of American Biography* and in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, an extended study of her life and works has not been written. Whatever the cause of her obscurity, her popularity as a novelist of the "feminine fifties," her enthusiasm for the abolitionist cause, and her value as a propagandist seem to merit more than literary oblivion.

Mary Hayden Green Pike, a pre-Civil War novelist of Calais, Maine, was one of the more popular writers to follow in the wake of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Deeply concerned with the moral issue of the slavery question, she visited the South, where she made close observation of the slavery system. Confirmed in her anti-slavery views by this visit, she was further encouraged by her husband, Frederick A. Pike (1817-1886), a Congressman, by his friends Hamlin and Blaine, and by her brother-in-law, James Shepherd Pike, Washington correspondent and associate editor of the *New York Tribune* 1850-1860, and United States Minister to the Netherlands 1861-1866.

Mrs. Pike's three novels were written in the sentimental and melodramatic style of the women writers of the 1850's. Her first novel, *Ida May, A Story of Things Actual and Possible,*
published in 1854 under the pseudonym of Mary Langdon, was extremely popular, and probably helped to strengthen the deep impression made by Uncle Tom’s Cabin, first published serially in the National Era 1851-1852. Ida May’s popularity was due chiefly to its theme, and Mrs. Pike, like Mrs. Stowe, did not write another novel to equal her first in selling value. Her second novel, Caste, A Story of Republican Equality, by "Sydney A. Story, Jr.," dealt with the problems of racial discrimination, particularly that of miscegenation, and was not so popular as her first. Agnes, Mrs. Pike’s third and last novel, a romance set in the American Revolutionary period, was least popular of the three works, perhaps because the subject matter was less timely. After Agnes Mrs. Pike gave up writing and continued her activities in charitable organizations and in the Baptist church, of which she was an enthusiastic member. She also did still life and landscape painting.

In her own day and even later Mrs. Pike was confused with the writer of a song entitled "Ida May," with contemporary Pike women authors, among them her sister-in-law and her niece, and with an English novelist, Emily Jolly, who also wrote a Caste.

Mrs. Pike should be considered in the light of the times in which she wrote. Her style is that of other popular feminine novelists of the mid-nineteenth century. As a strong supporter of the anti-slavery cause, she deserves mention in American literary history.
PREFACE

My interest in Mary Hayden Green Pike was aroused by a paper "Ida May, by Mary Langdon" read by Miss Alice Robertson in an American Literature seminar in the Spring of 1946. Although Mrs. Pike's first novel, Ida May, published a few years after Uncle Tom's Cabin, was phenomenally popular in its day, by the end of the first decade of the 1900's it had been almost forgotten. Mrs. Pike has been undeservedly overlooked as a popular writer of the "feminine fifties," and little is known of her life. Whatever the cause of Mrs. Pike's obscurity, her enthusiasm for the abolitionist cause and her value as a propagandist seem to merit more than literary oblivion. Consequently I have attempted a study of the life and writings of this Maine author.

It has been difficult to collect data on Mrs. Pike because so few of her relatives and acquaintances are now living, and because those of her letters which have been preserved are not available. My task was facilitated by the generous aid of a number of people. To Mrs. Horace Croxford I am indebted for biographical material which she had previously collected, and for a copy of Agnes, Mrs. Pike's third novel; to Mrs. H. I. Thomsen and the Misses Josephine and Vesta Moore for personal
anecdotes and items; to Mr. Harold A. Davis for biographical material concerning the Pike family. I am also appreciative of the help given me by the staffs of the libraries of the University of Maine, the State of Maine, the Maine Historical Society, the City of Bangor, the City of Calais, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Harvard University, and the City of Boston.

To the late Dr. Milton Ellis I am deeply grateful for the time and suggestions so generously and patiently given me. To Dr. Lloyd Flewelling I am likewise indebted for much assistance in the compilation of this study.
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CHAPTER I EASTPORT AND CALAIS, MAINE

Settlement and Early History (1785-1830)

Eastport, Maine, the birthplace of Mary Hayden Green, is situated on the most easterly island of the United States at the head of Passamaquoddy Bay, not far from Campobello and Deer islands. Actually Eastport is insular only at high tide since the channel is dry at low tide; the fact that the island is wholly surrounded by the sea means that it has a particularly equable climate and temperature. The village is situated on the southeasterly part of the island and owes its position to the existence at that point of a safe and roomy harbor never closed by ice. The irregular outline and surface structure of the island help to produce some of the most picturesque country along the coast of Maine.

Eastport has the unusual tides and fogs of the Bay of Fundy region of North America. The meeting of the warm air over the Gulf Stream and the cooler atmosphere over the Arctic current produces some of the heaviest fog in the world. "Pea soup" fog describes very well the nature of that which is found in and around Eastport.

George F. Bacon, Calais, Eastport, and Vicinity (Newark, 1892), p. 41.
The island was first settled at the close of the Revolutionary War by fisherfolk from the Essex County coast towns of Massachusetts and from New Hampshire, who established a curing post on Moose Island (as it was then known), from which the fish caught in neighboring waters could be conveniently processed and shipped to Massachusetts. The settlement and development of the island was greatly hindered by the boundary disputes between the United States and Great Britain. Although Eastport was incorporated into a town in 1798, it was not recognized as United States property by the English until the final decision of the boundary commission appointed by the Treaty of Ghent.

On July 11, 1814, the American garrison at Fort Sullivan on the island was forced to surrender to British naval forces, and for four years (1814-1818) was under British martial law. Although the citizens of Eastport were reluctant to take the required oath to the Crown, the British soldiers treated them fairly, if firmly. On June 30, 1818, the British troops evacuated Fort Sullivan and the American contingent again took possession of it.

Upon the departure of the British, several prominent Eastport citizens who had fled to Lubec returned to the town, and with the return of these people and the arrival of new ones

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from Massachusetts, Eastport began a period of success commercially and culturally. The officers of the garrison at Fort Sullivan brought their families to the town and added much to the social life of the community, mingling with the descendants of American Loyalists who had settled in the Canadian provinces and who had passed on to their descendants many of the social traditions of the courtly life. Many attractive and spacious homes, some of which had housed the British during their four-year occupation of Eastport, gave an air of dignity and prosperity to the town in its early days, and were graciously opened to travellers, missionaries, and lyceum speakers. A few of these early homes were the Hayden house, built by Aaron Hayden, the maternal grandfather of Mary H. Green, in 1805; the Weston house, built in 1810 by Jonathan D. Weston, a lawyer who had come to Eastport about 1803; and the Kilby house, built in 1818 by Daniel Kilby and noted for the elm trees planted by its owner.

On the American side of the St. Croix River at the head of the tide is situated the city of Calais, where the Green and Pike families became prominent. Two miles farther up the river is the village of Milltown, the history of which is closely linked with that of Calais. The early settlers in this vicinity engaged in farming, fishing, hunting, and lumbering. Because of the abundance of natural resources, the area became known as a sort of backwoods Eden. It contained forests consisting of heavy, valuable timber, and falls which invited
the erection of dams and the building of mills.

Milltown received its name from a saw mill built there about 1800, the first to be erected on the main river. It was called the "brisk" mill because of its busy and lively action. It is an interesting fact that some of the lumber from which the Bulfinch State House in Boston was built, notably the front columns of the second story, came from trees cut on the plantation of Edward H. Robbins in Robbinston, sawed in the "brisk" mill at Milltown, and shipped from the St. Croix River. 4

After 1800 more mills were erected in the township, and lumbering on the St. Croix River began in earnest. The tide made the river navigable for large vessels twice every twenty-four hours, and a substantial trade was carried on with Boston and other ports.

In 1806 by an act of the legislature, the township received the name of Calais according to the wishes of the townspeople. The choice of a name indicated the warm sympathy and regard which the American people had for France. A local historian made the remark,

It is greatly to be regretted that the people on the other side of the river did not take the hint, and adopt the equally pretty and appropriate name of Dover, instead of the uneuphonious though pious cognomen of St. Stephen. 5

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In 1809 when the General Court of Massachusetts, at the request of the people, passed an act allowing the town of Calais to be incorporated, the population was approximately two hundred. On June 16, 1809, the provisions of the act were carried out, and the first town election was held July 31, 1809.

Between 1810 and 1820 both Calais and St. Stephen made some progress in improving streets, roads, houses, raiment, and their style of living. Yet in spite of improvement there were in Calais no good roads, no schoolhouses, no churches, no banks, and not much money. There were, however, many people who were willing to work and sacrifice in order to progress. In April, 1810, the first tax levied in Calais contained a provision for supporting schools. True to the Yankee tradition, the townspeople voted the first dollar for free public schools. Some of the pioneers may have been illiterate, but they realized the importance of education in making their children intelligent and happy.

The period 1810-1820 was a dark era in the history of Calais, one of war and poverty. With the War of 1812 came the British blockade and the cutting off of all western trade. Although there was plenty of food and clothing in St. Stephen, there was no opportunity for smuggling, as there might have been before the war. Prices went up, and the people of Calais did not have the money to buy molasses at $1.00 a gallon, coarse grain meal at $2.00 a bushel, and flour at $20 a barrel.
There was no fighting on either side of the river, but there was continual fear that lawless conflicts might break out between the inhabitants of the two towns. In spite of these trials, the Calais people managed to raise small amounts of money for current expenses, schools, and highways.

Although in 1806 St. Stephen had two churches, Calais had none. There was little religious feeling and not much interest in public worship in Calais. Finally, in the latter part of 1816, a cold and gloomy year, Thomas Asbury, an itinerant minister, came there, preaching wherever and whenever he could find the opportunity. His enthusiastic and dramatic speeches caused a religious revival. At the meetings which he held, weird and exciting scenes of conversion often took place. During the two years before Mr. Asbury left Calais, a Methodist-Episcopal Church was built there; after his departure, religious fervor died down for a time.

In 1828 a wave of religious enthusiasm among the Congregationalists prompted them to erect a meeting house adequate to the needs of the town. Samuel Kelley, probably the first Baptist to settle in Calais, did all he could to aid in the establishment of a Congregational church, for he saw no prospect of a church of his own faith at the time.

The establishment of these churches had a refining and softening influence on the people of Calais, who had previously been too busy earning a meager living and meeting the threats to their security during the War of 1812 to attempt
to satisfy their spiritual needs.

A lawyer had been sorely needed in Calais because of conflicting claims and interests and because of badly confused pecuniary affairs. The first lawyer there was the Honorable George Downes, a native of Walpole, Massachusetts, and a graduate of Harvard College. In 1816 he came to Calais, started the practice of his profession, and did much to help the town during its darkest period. For fifty years he remained there, one of the most able, active, and influential citizens of the town. He served for a time as state senator, and for thirty years was president of the Calais Bank, which went into operation in 1832 with a capital of $100,000. He died in 1869.

Another lawyer worthy of note was the Honorable Joseph Granger, who was also capable and popular. He was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, and as a young man was engaged in commerce. Granger finally abandoned this occupation, read law, and came to Calais in 1830. He soon had a large practice, and became a leader of the Washington County Bar. Several promising young men, who were later admitted to the bar, read law with him.6

By 1818 the effects of the war had almost passed away, and things began to look more hopeful. 1820 marked the

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6 Biographical sketches of the Honorable George Downes and the Honorable Joseph Granger are to be found in Knowlton's Annals, pp. 81-84.
beginning of the busiest period in the history of Maine lumbering. In 1820 began also a period of great activity and rapid growth in Calais. In the next decade the town more than quadrupled its population and wealth, and became a pleasant, thrifty, and cultured community. The discomfort and poverty of the preceding years were banished by the appearance of good roads and convenient bridges, fine carriages, thriving churches and societies, and elegant homes, furniture, and clothing. The demand for lumber widened the avenue to wealth. On both sides of the river were luxurious homes which found a proper setting in the beautiful scenery along the St. Croix River.

The people of Calais were becoming increasingly aware of their cultural and social, as well as their physical, needs, and it was only a few years afterward that they formed a library club and supported the establishment of the first local newspaper. To this enterprising community the father of Mary Hayden Green, Elijah Dix Green, who was to become prominent in the later development of Calais, removed his family from Eastport in the later 1820's.

I. C. Knowlton, in his Annals, p. 41, writes, "Mr. [Stephen] Brewer died in 1814. The next year his widow received from friends in Boston, a Chaise,—the first one that ever graced the streets of Calais."
CHAPTER II  ANCESTRY OF MARY HAYDEN GREEN

Mary Hayden Green came of early Puritan stock, her paternal ancestors having played an important role in the history of Middlesex and Worcester counties in Massachusetts, as early settlers, doctors, and Baptist ministers there and later in Maine; her maternal ancestry likewise is traceable to the early seventeenth century in Massachusetts and to the late eighteenth century on the east coast of Maine, where the Hayden family was an influential one in the early history of Eastport. In tracing the family history of Mary Hayden Green, one discovers individuals who were enterprising and industrious, kindly, and religious-minded. By their contemporaries not a few of them were recognized and respected for their capabilities and for their many Christian virtues.

Thomas Green, her earliest ancestor in the direct line to come to this country, was born in England about 1606, and came to America probably in 1635 or 1636. The first record in which his name appeared is dated 1653, when his youngest daughter was born. He perhaps lived first in Ipswich, but moved to Malden, where as early as 1651 his wife Elizabeth and his daughter signed a petition to the General Court. He owned

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a sixty-three acre farm in that part of Malden which is now Melrose. In 1658 he was selectman of Malden, and he was several times on the grand jury of Middlesex County. The date of his death is uncertain.

He was married twice, his first wife, Elizabeth, being the mother of all his children. She died August 22, 1658. On September 5, 1659, he married Mrs. Frances Cook, who had been twice widowed and was the mother of a number of children by her former husbands. Thomas and Elizabeth Green had nine children, some of whom were probably born in England, although it is not known how many.

Thomas Green,\(^9\) son of the preceding, was born probably in England about 1630. About 1653 he married Rebecca Hills, daughter of Joseph Hills of Malden and Rose (Dunster) Hills. He was a farmer in Malden and was admitted as a free­man on May 31, 1670. He died February 13, 1671/2; his will, proved April 2, 1672, gave to his wife the third part of his estate, the remainder to be divided equally among his children —Rebecca, Hannah, Thomas, and Samuel, who were then all under age. His wife, Rebecca, died June 6, 1674.

Captain Samuel Green\(^10\) was born October 5, 1670, in Malden. He married Elizabeth Upham, supposed to be a daughter of Deacon Phineas Upham, eldest son of Lieutenant Phineas Upham,

\(^9\) Ibid., p. 9.
\(^10\) Ibid., p. 12.
who was severely wounded in the storming of the Narragansett Fort, December 19, 1675, and whose father, Deacon John Upham, came from England about 1635. In the will of his grandfather, Joseph Hills of Newbury, he was distinguished from other Samuel Greens as the one who married Elizabeth Upham. He lived in Malden until about 1717, when he moved his family to the town of Leicester, of which he was one of the founders. That township was granted by the General Court, and Captain Green was one of the committee appointed to settle it. He owned much property and was very influential. That part of the town of Leicester which was occupied by him and his relatives was later called Greenville in his honor. He died January 2, 1735/6. His will, recorded in the Worcester Probate Court, mentioned his wife Elizabeth, son Thomas, and six daughters. Mrs. Elizabeth Green died in Leicester about 1761.

Reverend Thomas Green,11 only son of Captain Samuel Green of Leicester, was born in Malden in 1699. About 1717 he went to Leicester with his father. His father having to leave for a time, Thomas remained to look after some cattle at pasture during the summer season. An interesting family tradition relates that the son was attacked by a fever and sheltered himself in a cave. Here he sustained himself on milk from a cow whose calf he had tied to a tree near by. Although he was in a state of great exhaustion, he had to crawl to a brook for water and chewed some roots which he

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11 Ibid., p. 21.
found on the way. He was discovered in this condition by two
men, who refused to take him home but notified his father.
Captain Green lost no time in moving his son to Malden on horse­
back, the trip occupying four days.

Thomas acquired a knowledge of medicine and surgery
from two English buccaneers who boarded with his father for
many years, having surrendered themselves under an offer of
pardon from the British government. These surgeons instructed
Thomas and gave him a few medical books. With this prepara­
tion, and sustained by a vigorous intellect and much practical
wisdom, he practiced medicine with great success, his practice
extending as far as Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Thomas was married about 1725 to Martha Lynde, born
in Malden in 1700, daughter of Captain John Lynde and his third
wife, Judith. They had seven children.

In addition to being a successful physician, Thomas
was also a prominent clergyman. He organized a Baptist church
in South Leicester and in 1736 became pastor of that congrega­
tion, which was large and flourishing. The inscription on his
gravestone reads:

Erected in Memory of Doctor Thomas Green. He was
pastor of the Baptist Church in Leicester, and a noted
physician. He departed this life August 19, 1773, age
74.

Mrs. Martha Green, widow of the Reverend Thomas Green, died in
Leicester, June 20, 1780. They had five sons and two daughters.
Dr. John Green, son of the Reverend Thomas and Martha (Lynde) Green, was born in Leicester August 14, 1736. He married first, Mary Osgood of Worcester, who died September 5, 1761, and second, Mary Ruggles, daughter of Brigadier-General Timothy Ruggles of Sandwich, Cape Cod.

He studied medicine with his father and started a successful practice in Worcester when he was quite young. By his first marriage he had three children; by his second wife, who died June 16, 1814, in Worcester, he had ten—eight boys and two girls.

Thomas Green, son of Doctor John and Mary (Osgood) Green of Worcester, was born there June 3, 1761. He married first (October 8, 1782), Salome Barstow of Sutton, who died November 29, 1799, and second, Hannah Delano, a widow, of Woolwich, Maine.

He studied theology with Joseph Avery, who for fifty years was pastor of the Congregational church in Holden, Maine; he also studied medicine with his father, and like his paternal grandfather was minister to both soul and body. He became a Baptist minister of considerable note and was settled in North Yarmouth, Maine, where he was instrumental in establishing the

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12 Ibid., p. 34.
13 Ibid., p. 48.
first Baptist church, serving as its first pastor from 1797 for thirteen years.\textsuperscript{15} Timothy Dwight, president of Yale, passing through the town in his New England travels in 1797 noted with approval the first Baptist meetinghouse in North Yarmouth.\textsuperscript{16} In 1798 the Reverend Thomas Green was the recipient of the honorary degree of Master of Arts from Brown University.

After his death in North Yarmouth, May 29, 1814, an obituary of him in a Boston newspaper\textsuperscript{17} praised him for his "sprightly genius,...capacious mind,...quick and brilliant imagination," for his affability and kindness, his oratorical powers, and the "unaffected elegance and ease which rendered him agreeable in every circle."

By his first marriage he had eight children and by the second, a daughter and a son.

Deacon Elijah Dix Green,\textsuperscript{18} youngest son of Thomas and Salome (Barstow) Green, was born in North Yarmouth March 22, 1799. He moved to Eastport, Maine, sometime in the early 1800's. In 1823 he married Hannah Claflin Hayden of Eastport and settled his family at Calais sometime after 1824. He owned

\textsuperscript{15} William H. Rowe, Ancient North Yarmouth and Yarmouth, Maine, 1626-1936 (Yarmouth, 1937), p. 265.

\textsuperscript{16} Ibid., p. 181. See also Timothy Dwight, Travels in New England and New York (New Haven, 1821-22), II, 211.

\textsuperscript{17} Columbian Centinel, Boston, June 11, 1814.

\textsuperscript{18} Greene, op. cit., p. 61.
a sawmill there; was a deacon of the Second Baptist Church, of which he was a charter member; and was evidently a respected and influential Calais citizen. In 1856 he was appointed a notary public and justice of the peace for Washington County. In 1858 he was elected president of the common council in Calais and was also clerk of Ward 4.

Deacon Green died in Calais March 7, 1867, three years after his wife, Hannah Claflin Hayden Green. He was buried in the Pike lot, called Ten Acre; his grave is marked by a simple white stone.

The photograph of Elijah Green shows a kindly, benevolent face. A memorial window placed in the Baptist church in Calais at the request of his two daughters gives evidence that his good qualities were appreciated by those who knew him best.

In Memoriam, Elijah Dix Green, Died March 6, 1867, aged 67 years. Stainless in character--man of faith and prayer. He toiled in the master's service until the evening of life. Then they laid the weary pilgrim in a chamber whose windows open to the sunrise and the chamber was called Peace.

This window faces the east.

19 Maine Register and Business Directory for the Year 1855 (Portland, Hallowell, Augusta, and Bangor, 1855), p. 101

20 City of Calais, Maine: The Charter, Ordinances, and a Brief History of the City of Calais, Maine, William J. Fowler, compiler (Calais, n.d.)
ANCESTRY OF MARY HAYDEN GREEN

Mary Hayden Green 1824-1908

Elijah Dix Green 1799-1867

Salome Barstow 1759-1799

John Green 1736-1799

Mary Osgood 1740-1761

John Hayden 1740-1824

Hannah Claflin 1741-

Hannah Claflin Hayden 1804-1864

Aaron Hayden 1775-1842

Ruth Richards Jones 1778-1838

Samuel Jones 1753-1813

John Hayden 1703-1763

Lucy Maynard 1716-

Hannah Smith

Ebenezer Claflin 1714-1755

Abigail Thayer 1713-1765

Thomas Green 1699-1773

Martha Lynde 1700-1780

Mary Osgood 1740-1761

Benjamin Richards 1714-1755

Abigail Thayer 1713-1765

MARY HAYDEN GREEN
The children of Deacon Elijah and Hannah (Hayden) Green were Mary Hayden, Emeline Carlton, Emma Sophia, Kate Jewett, Sarah Brooks, and Thomas Hayden. Of the five girls only two, Mary Hayden and Emma Sophia, lived more than a few years; and Thomas Hayden, the only boy, was killed in action during the Civil War. In 1851 Emma Sophia (1829-1906) married Charles Hart Smith, an uncle of Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Mary Hayden Green's maternal ancestry can be traced back to John Hayden, the immigrant ancestor, who came to Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1630 on the John and Mary and married Susannah ——-. He acquired land in Dorchester which he subsequently sold, and spent his later life in Braintree.

John Hayden (1635-1718), son of John and Susannah Hayden, was married to Hannah Ames (1641-1689) by Governor Endicott. Josiah Hayden, their son, married Elizabeth Goodenow in 1691.

The Hayden family lived for several generations in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, beginning with John Hayden (1703-1763), son of Josiah and Elizabeth Hayden, who married Lucy Maynard, daughter of Zachariah and Sarah (Wheeler) Maynard, in Hopkinton in 1726. Their son John (1740-1824) married three times, his first wife being Hannah Claflin, whom he married on October 24, 1759.

Aaron Hayden, the son of John and Hannah (Claflin) Hayden, was born in Hopkinton on September 8, 1775. He lived in Milton for a time, but moved at about the turn of the cen-
tury to Eastport, Maine, and was among the early settlers of that town. In 1800 he married Ruth Richards Jones (1778-1838) in Robbinston, Maine. She was a descendant from John and Priscilla Alden through Ruth (Alden) Bass, Sarah (Bass) Thayer, Abigail (Thayer) Richards, and Mary (Richards) Jones. Aaron Hayden was a prominent merchant and owned a large and prosperous store in the town. He was a deacon of the Baptist Church, the earliest church in Eastport. In 1804 he was elected moderator, and he was selectman in 1807. The house which he built in 1805 was among the first two-story dwellings in Eastport. He had thirteen children, a few of whom died in infancy. He died in Eastport June 18, 1842.

Among the sons of Deacon Aaron and Ruth Richards (Jones) Hayden and uncles of Mary Hayden Green was Aaron Hayden, born in Eastport September 23, 1814. Aaron the younger was graduated from Harvard in 1834, and was admitted to the Penobscot County bar in 1838. Returning to Eastport, he continued the practice of his profession. In his native town he was for several years on the board of selectmen and the school committee, and he served also on the State Board of Education. In 1844 the Honorable Aaron Hayden was chosen the candidate of the Whig party for the Maine legislature. He was elected then and again in 1845; in 1855 he was senator from Washington County. In 1847 he mar-

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22 Ibid., pp. 275-276.
ried Jane T. Briggs. He died at Eastport October 22, 1865.

Hannah Claflin Hayden, daughter of Aaron and Ruth (Jones) Hayden, was born at Eastport May 4, 1804, where she received her education and early training. She and her mother were original members of the Eastport Female Benevolent Society, founded in 1821. Her mother, Mrs. Aaron Hayden, was First Directress, and Hannah Claflin Hayden, Collector. On November 13, 1823, she married Elijah Dix Green, with whom she moved several years later to Calais. She died July 18, 1864, and was buried in the Pike family lot, where her husband was later laid.

Ibid., p. 499.
CHAPTER III  EARLY YEARS AND MARRIAGE (1824-1853)

Mary Hayden Green was born in Eastport, Maine, on November 24, 1824. She was the first child of Elijah Dix and Hannah (Hayden) Green, who had been married in Eastport in 1823. Of the four sisters born later only one, Emma Sophia, born in 1829, lived to share childhood experiences with Mary Hayden. Mary must have had some of the responsibility of caring for and amusing her younger sister.

One can readily imagine the early impressions of a child in Eastport. No doubt the fog, a frequent visitor on the island, created a mysterious world for the small girl, who watched it creep over the town, felt its cool moisture, and, watching the sun shining translucently just over and through the fog, saw it gradually recede over the blue water. Perhaps Mary was old enough to heed some of the old legends of that section familiar to Eastport residents today, such as one of an old sea captain who still sails his vessel, ignoring the channels, buoys, and other markings that guide boatmen; if he comes to an obstacle, he "sails right over it in the pea soup fog."

Then on clear days a child might watch the water and the effect of the tide upon the island, which was no longer an
island at low tide when the channel, which cut Eastport from
the mainland, disappeared. She would watch the ships in the
harbor, some arriving in the sun and disappearing in the fog,
and wonder where they were from and where they were heading.
To see the many islands, large and small, which were within
sight of Eastport, and to watch the play of light and shadow
on their surfaces and surrounding waters, and to wonder how
those islands differed from the one on which she lived were natural
occupations for the time and thoughts of a young child.

The sights, the sounds, and the smells of a harbor
town, whose primary occupations were fishing and the fish-
packing industry gave plenty of scope for the play of any
child's imagination.

Elijah Dix Green, realizing the opportunity in the
growing lumbering community of Calais, decided to remove his
family from Eastport to Calais, probably in the late 1820's.
The removal must have been an exciting event to the small child
Mary. There were no railroads to facilitate the process of
moving, but the journey, while it may not have been particu-
larly comfortable on the rough roads, must have given ample
time for observation of woodland and river scenery. Perhaps
the family stopped at various houses and scattered communities
on the way, where they received a cordial welcome.

Mary now found herself in an entirely new atmosphere.
Gone, though not far distant, were the bay, the islands, the
fog, and the harbor; in their place were woodlands, sawmills,
and the river. As in Eastport there were no elaborate forms of play or amusement for children in Calais, but there was much of new interest and character for Mary to observe. The busy sawmills and the logging on the river furnished interesting sights; and no doubt the children played near the river, where the smell of lumber and trees replaced the familiar salty smell which Mary had known earlier in Eastport.

The home of Elijah Dix Green in Calais was a two-storied white house, large and attractive. The household was a religious one, and its atmosphere together with the strong religious background of her ancestry fostered in Mary at an early age an interest in and an awareness of moral issues. Her parents already were members of the First Baptist Church at Milltown, when Mary at the age of twelve underwent a deep religious experience which caused her to become a member of the same church.24 We do not know just what the experience was, but it was rather poorly timed, for her baptism took place during the Winter of 1836 when ice had to be cut from the river for the occasion of her immersion.25

In spite of her religious background, Mary was probably not unnaturally interested in serious subjects. Like her playmates she probably enjoyed games and fun of a childish nature, although perhaps the serious aspects of her personality


25 Ibid.
HOME OF ELIJAH DIX GREEN

267 Main Street, Calais
and temperament had a firmer basis and more opportunity for growth than did those of some of her young friends.

In 1838 the anti-slavery agitation reached Calais and caused some disturbance and trouble. Ichabod Coddling, an anti-slavery speaker sent by Samuel Fessenden of Portland, came to the town to lecture on the evils of slavery. Some of the local politicians, who were also ardent Baptists, opposed these lectures. When Mr. Coddling asked permission to speak at the Baptist meetinghouse, Deacon Elijah Kelley, who was probably the first Baptist to settle in Calais, believed that he should be given the privilege, although the Baptist minister and the politicians opposed the arrangement. The speeches were given successfully from the Baptist pulpit by Mr. Coddling; but when he attempted the same lectures in the town hall the following week, he was pelted with rotten eggs, perhaps by the original opposers to the series of anti-slavery lectures. Incidents of this kind strengthened the feeling of the Calais abolitionists. This episode must have made an impression upon Mary Hayden Green, who was then fourteen and whose mind probably was already aware of the moral issue of the slavery question.

After her attendance at the early Calais schools, Mary Hayden's parents, being ambitious for her, sent her to the Charlestown (Massachusetts) Female Seminary to supplement her Calais schooling.26 At the seminary, her religious convictions

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26 Ibid.
were strengthened and deepened under the leadership of its president, the Reverend William Phillips.27

On March 30, 1842, while Mary was still attending school in Charlestown, Thomas Hayden, the last child of Elijah Dix and Hannah Hayden Green, was born. To this only brother, Mary Hayden became greatly attached.

In 1843 after her graduation from the Charlestown Seminary, Mary returned to Calais to live. During her absence the community had increased in wealth and population and had made many advances culturally and socially. The Calais library club, established in 1833, had increased its membership and its collection of books. The first permanent Calais newspaper, although there had been many earlier ones of short duration, was the **Calais Advertiser**, established in 1841. First Whig and then Republican, the editorial policy of the paper was one with which Mary Green probably was in sympathy.

Mary Hayden and her parents were constituent members of the Second Baptist Church, established in Calais in 1841. Elijah Dix Green was a deacon of the church with which Mary maintained a lifelong membership. Her kindly, generous, and philanthropic spirit displayed itself in church activities, and in her work with the Ladies' Benevolent Society, an organization which had been founded in 1828 "to assist the poor, and particularly the sick, and those unable to labor."28

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gave much of her time to generous works of charity but did not speak of it. One of her friends said of her that she was "born good."

Mary was an ardent and rapid reader, interested in a variety of subjects, but particularly in social reform. Easternmost Maine in the 1840's was interested in temperance and in other reform activities; and anti-slavery feeling, growing in the 1840's, became in time a focus for the spiritual energy of many individuals, among whom was Mary Green, whose gentle spirit was aroused by the reports of the evils of slavery.

In physical appearance Mary was not beautiful, but she had strong features and a thoughtful expression. Her amiable disposition, no doubt, left its impression on her face. Of her interest in or attraction for the opposite sex we know little. Certainly there were some young men in Calais in whose company she might have found pleasure and satisfaction. We know of only one young man who claimed her interest and attention: Frederick A. Pike, a rising young lawyer in Calais and a member of a prominent New England family.

Calais in the 1840's was the seat of the great lumber region of the St. Croix and of the trade which settles naturally to a border town on a navigable river. Many energetic men from all parts of New England came to Calais to seek fortunes in the lumber business. They played the game of business shrewdly, eagerly, and sometimes unscrupulously. Frequent collisions of
hostile interests and clashing claims of title among these men made the community for years a paradise for lawyers.29 Many men, who were afterwards heard of in larger fields of activity, began their legal careers there.

Among such a group of lawyers, Frederick Augustus Pike had the ability to become a leader. Almost immediately after his admittance to the bar, he won a wide and lucrative practice throughout Washington County by means of his intellectual capabilities, his practicality, and his oratorical powers. He had a brilliant mind and was an eloquent speaker. His integrity prevented him from trying to dazzle juries; consequently, he was both liked and trusted.

The careers of both Frederick Pike and his brother James were foreshadowed by that of their Puritan ancestor, Robert Pike, an enemy of the Mathers.

Robert Pike came to this country from England in 1635 at the age of nineteen with his father, John Pike.30 Robert eventually settled in Salisbury, Massachusetts, where he was the chief magistrate most of his life and was also a major in charge of the troops east of the Merrimack River in King Philip's War. In spite of the fact that he was a prominent and respected member of the Massachusetts Colony, he

29 Calais Times, December 9, 1886.
30 For an account of the life of Robert Pike, see James Shepherd Pike's The New Puritan (New York, 1859).
was involved in three serious controversies with the civil and church orders. In 1653 he was disfranchised for his criticism of the Puritan laws against the Quakers; but in 1657 he was again granted the privilege of voting and was in attendance at the 1658 spring session of the Massachusetts General Court as the Salisbury representative.

In 1675 Robert Pike was excommunicated by his pastor, the Reverend John Wheelwright, for opposing the dogmatic authority of the clergyman. At the order of the General Court in 1677, Mr. Wheelwright was forced to pardon Major Pike.

Robert Pike's third difference with the Colony occurred in his opposition to the Salem witchcraft persecutions in 1692.

Of this Puritan the poet Whittier wrote to James Shepherd Pike, brother of Frederick A. Pike and biographer of Robert Pike:

"From all that I have read, and from the traditions of the valley of the Merrimac, I have been accustomed to regard Robert Pike as one of the wisest and worthiest of the early settlers of that region...."

"He was by all odds the most remarkable personage of the time and place...."

"I shall look with interest for thy book. I have always had an admiration for the subject of it, and in my story [Leaves from Margaret Smith's Journal] I endeavored to do justice to him." [31

In his will Robert Pike left land in Amesbury and Salisbury to his youngest son, Moses, who probably remained in

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[31 Ibid., preface.
Salisbury as a farmer.

Moses' son Timothy Pike was still a child when his grandfather died. Timothy settled in Newburyport, the home of his ancestors, where as a blacksmith he was noted for his thrift and piety. In his will, dated 1767, he left his negro man, Harry, to his son Timothy. It seems rather odd that the grandson of Robert Pike, who was so much concerned with liberty and freedom, should have owned a negro.

Timothy Pike, son of the owner of Harry, moved to Portland, Maine, where he was a merchant and where his son William was born on August 18, 1775.

William Pike, the son of Timothy and the father of James Shepherd and Frederick Augustus Pike, became a merchant in Wiscasset. He was twice married: first to Elizabeth Christopher, by whom he had a son and a daughter, and second to Hannah Shepherd, born in Jefferson, Maine, in 1785. His second wife was a descendant of James Shepherd, the first settled minister of Cambridge, Massachusetts, some of whose descendants settled in Lincoln County, Maine.32

William Pike moved with his second wife to Calais, Maine, in 1804. Here he pursued his trade, much of it done at that time on the barter basis; dealt in supplies, produce, and lumber; and owned a small sawmill. He was extremely active in town affairs. When the town of Calais was incorporated in 1809,

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William Pike was elected selectman and proved himself an able and active officer. In addition to other public offices he was on the school committee in 1810 and was instrumental in establishing the first free public school in Calais. He was accidentally drowned in St. Andrews Bay on July 1, 1818, when he fell overboard on his way to Eastport to celebrate the restoration of the island by the British. He left little property, and his wife, by hard work alone, managed to rear and educate the four children left in her care. She was an admirable woman, and brought up the boys very well.

The children of William and Hannah (Shepherd) Pike were James Shepherd, born September 11, 1811, who became a brilliant journalist and was Minister to the Hague; Edgar, a graduate of Bowdoin, who died at the beginning of a promising career as a lawyer in Louisiana; Charles E., a lawyer of Machias and Boston, member of the legislatures of Maine and Massachusetts, and solicitor of the Washington Internal Revenue Bureau; and Frederick Augustus, born in Calais on December 9, 1817.

Frederick attended Washington Academy in East Machias, often walking home at vacation times because his mother did not have much money; his brother James gave him what financial help he was able to afford. Frederick attended Bowdoin College for two years, and then studied law with the Honorable Joseph Granger of Calais. While he was studying law, he taught school in order to earn money. In 1840 at twenty-two years of age, Frederick Pike was admitted to the bar and began a brilliant and success-
ful career as a lawyer in Calais.

Mary Green must have had great admiration for the mother of the four boys, whose natural abilities were fostered and guilded by one who was devoted, self-sacrificing, and courageous. No doubt everyone in Calais had an interest in the careers of the four young men, and had nothing but respect and praise for Hannah (Shepherd) Pike.

James and Frederick Pike were active in Calais affairs—political, financial, and cultural. They always took a strong interest in the growth of the Calais library and supported it with gifts of money, books, and furnishings. Mary must have viewed this interest with approval, for she herself was an ardent reader and was anxious to aid and educate those less fortunately situated than she. Moreover, Frederick was also stirred by the same anti-slavery feelings which filled Mary's breast. In him she found a congenial companion and a worthy object for her admiration.

In 1846, when Mary Green was twenty-one, she was married to Frederick Pike in Calais. After their marriage the Pikes remained in Calais, where they maintained a home all their lives, even during Frederick's terms in the Maine legislature and in Congress.

Mrs. Pike continued her works of charity, and was encouraged in her anti-slavery views by her husband. She still found time for extensive reading, in spite of the fact that she did some entertaining for her own and her husband's friends. Although the Pikes never had any children of their own, they
adopted little ten-year-old Mary Stearns, whose father, Henry Clark Stearns, was a cousin of Mrs. Pike. Frederick and Mary Pike called the little girl "May," and she called them "Uncle Fred" and "Aunt Mary."

Shortly after her marriage, Mrs. Pike visited a relative in the South, where she made a direct observation of slavery. She must have seen and sensed the charm of Southern plantation life, but she was not carried away with the glamor of it. Mint juleps had no effect on her abolition ardor. Although the slaves were well treated on the plantation which she visited, she had the opportunity of observing mistreated slaves on nearby plantations. No doubt she made notes and jottings on much that she saw and heard. The abuses she observed made a deep impression upon her, and her anti-slavery views were further strengthened by this visit to the South. In her "Preface" to Ida May, Mrs. Pike states:

This story, which embodies the ideas and impressions received by the writer, during a residence in the South, is given to the public, in the belief that it will be recognized and accepted as a true picture of that phase of social life which it represents.

She realized that the scenes which she saw were perhaps only a sample of what occurred on various other plantations in the South. In the "Preface" she continues:

In the various combinations of society existing in the slave States, there may be brighter, and there certainly are darker scenes, than are here depicted.

If Mrs. Pike did not see the darkest or the brightest side of the slavery system in the South, she saw enough to

give her ample food for thought upon her return to the North, where Northern thinkers and writers were becoming more and more concerned and preoccupied with the subject of abolitionism. Unlike some of the Northerners, Mrs. Pike was not a "parlor abolitionist"; she had strengthened her views on slavery by a close observation of the system at work in the South.

Meanwhile the town of Calais and the career of Frederick Pike were mutually progressing. In 1850 Calais became a city, and in 1851 Frederick was president of the common council. In 1852 he was elected mayor of Calais. His financial status had improved through his wide and lucrative law practice, and some of his money was invested in timber lands and in New Brunswick and Maine railroad companies. He was becoming more generally recognized as an outstanding member of the Whig party in Calais and in Washington County.

The anti-slavery views of Mrs. Pike were encouraged not only by her husband, but also by her brother-in-law James Shepherd Pike, an enthusiastic anti-slavery supporter. Having served for a time on the Boston Courier, James was invited by Horace Greeley in 1850 to become a regular correspondent of the New York Tribune. The invitation of Greeley, which began in the following manner, must have pleased the fancy of James Pike, who himself wrote in a brilliant but oftentimes unconventional manner:

Dear Sir:--Will you write me some letters? You are writing such abominably bad ones for the Boston Courier,
that I fancy you are putting all your unreason into these, and can give me some of the pure juice. Try. 34

From 1850 to 1860 James Pike was Washington correspondent and associate editor of the Tribune. He was an able and aggressive writer, and expressed his views on slavery in a manner which would have pleased his progressive and liberal ancestor Robert Pike. His letters from Washington were vivid descriptions of the capital during the decade preceding the Civil War.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin, which first appeared periodically in 1851-1852 in The National Era, a weekly paper published in Washington, started a stream of controversial writing between the pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions of the North and South. Uncle Tom's Cabin, together with the anti-slavery poems and writings of Whittier and of other Northern writers, suggested to Mrs. Pike a means by which she might help to further the cause which she supported. She therefore began work on an anti-slavery novel.

Talbot, op. cit., p. 16.
CHAPTER IV  THE PRODUCTIVE PERIOD (1854-1858)

Ida May, Caste, Agnes

After her return from the South Mrs. Pike had a new interest to which she devoted herself with zeal. While still taking charge of her household and her adopted daughter, and while still entertaining and engaging in church affairs, she was also busy on the manuscript of her first novel, *Ida May: A Story of Things Actual and Possible*, which appeared in 1854 under the pseudonym of Mary Langdon. It was published by Phillips, Sampson and Company of Boston.

Announcements of the forthcoming publication of *Ida May* were read with keen anticipation. On November 18, 1854, the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* stated that the publication of *Ida May* had been postponed from November 15 to November 22 in order that a second edition might be ready before the first appeared, since there were so many advance orders for the book. When the novel finally did appear, 60,000 copies were sold in eighteen months.\(^{35}\) Undoubtedly *Ida May* derived some of its popularity from the furore caused by *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Although it was known that the novel appeared under a pseudonym, the identity of the author was not known. Every-

\(^{35}\) *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIV, 597.
one who read the book was anxious to discover who had written it. The Boston newspapers were much interested in the identity of Mary Langdon. The Boston Evening Gazette, January 6, 1855, stated that it was understood that the "authoress of the new work entitled Ida May...is Mrs. Mary Hayden Green Pike, a young and beautiful widow of Calais, Maine." Although the author was not a widow and was not beautiful, the remainder of the conjecture was correct.

The identity of Mary Langdon, however, was not yet proved. Among others guessed to have written Ida May were Mrs. Stowe and Mrs. Mary Ide Torrey, widow of Charles T. Torrey. In the Boston Atlas of January 2, 1855, appeared a statement of Mrs. Torrey, in which she disclaimed the honor of the authorship of Ida May.

Mrs. Pike and her husband must have viewed with gratification the popularity of Mrs. Pike's novel. On January 8, 1855, the thirty-five thousandth copy of the novel was ready, and agents were wanted to sell the book throughout the country.

Charles Turner Torrey (1813-1846), abolitionist, was born in Scituate, Massachusetts. He attended Phillips Academy, graduated from Yale in 1833, and after a period at Andover Theological Seminary, completed his theological training under the Reverend Jacob Ide, whose daughter he married on March 29, 1837. His anti-slavery activities in Baltimore caused him to be arrested, and he was sentenced to hard labor for six years in the Maryland State Penitentiary. His mind gave way in jail, and tuberculosis caused his death. His body was brought to Boston and was honored as that of a martyr to the anti-slavery cause.
Further evidence of the popularity of Mrs. Pike's book was its dramatization. On January 27, 1855, the Boston Saturday Evening Gazette announced the forthcoming dramatization of Ida May by J. B. Howe. The two-act play was first mentioned in bills of the National Theater, Boston, on February 2, 1855.37

Mrs. Pike's reluctance to publish the novel under her own name may have been partly due to the political aspirations of her husband, who in 1854 was the candidate of the progressive Whigs for nomination to Congress. The publicity which Mrs. Pike's novel received as a result of its publication under a penname certainly did not detract from the popularity or the sale of Ida May.

The Calais and Eastport newspapers were also very much interested in the identity of the author of the popular novel. On January 3, 1855, the Eastport Sentinel, quoting from the Portland Inquirer, stated that "...the author of Ida May is the widow of the late lamented Torrey--the heroic Torrey, who died in prison, the victim and martyr to slavery." When Mrs. Torrey denied the authorship of the novel, the Sentinel, later in the month, asserted that Mrs. Pike was the author.

Just how the name of the author was definitely ascertained is not known, but there is an interesting story in Calais that one day when Mrs. Pike was entertaining friends who were

37 In a letter of Mrs. Cordelia MacDonald dated March 10, 1937, Mrs. MacDonald recalls having played the title role in a dramatized version of Ida May. She also remembers having appeared in Uncle Tom's Cabin, The Lamplighter, and Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter.
THE "IDA MAY" HOUSE

278 Main Street, Calais
discussing Ida May, her little adopted daughter ran into the room, and after listening to the conversation for a time, exclaimed, "Oh, that's the little girl Aunt Mary used to tell Uncle Fred about last winter!"38 Children observe and remember more than we think.

When the news spread that the charming and gracious Mrs. Pike was the author of Ida May, all Calais was swept with a warm wave of delight. Mrs. Pike's family was justly proud of the fame which she had brought to them and to the city. Many children born in the vicinity, and indeed throughout the Northeast, at that time were named for the sweet heroine of Mrs. Pike's first novel.

The money which Mrs. Pike earned from the sale of her novel was used to build the "Ida May" house (now 278 Main Street, in Calais), a large green house with attractive grounds. Here the Pikes lived for some years, and here Mrs. Pike began the writing of her second novel, a story which dealt with the injustice of racial inequality. Frederick, meanwhile, was carrying on his successful law practice and biding his time for political appointments after his loss of the Whig nomination in 1854.

Mrs. Pike's second novel, Caste: A Story of Republican Equality, published by Phillips, Sampson and Company, appeared in 1856. It was published under a new penname of Sydney A. Story, Jr., her first pseudonym having caused the

38 Anecdote related by Miss Josephine Moore, Calais, Maine.
general public to confuse her with the writer of a song, "Ida May," which was published about the same time as Mrs. Pike's first popular novel. While of as much literary value as her first novel, _Caste_ was by no means so popular.

There appear to be several reasons why _Caste_ was not so well received as _Ida May_. It was published two years after _Ida May_ at a time when the hubbub caused by _Uncle Tom's Cabin_ had somewhat died down. Although the sentimental novel was still in vogue, the theme of _Caste_ was perhaps not so acceptable as that of Mrs. Pike's first novel. Whereas abolitionists and those who held anti-slavery views recognized the evils of slavery and were anxious to do away with them, the abolitionists by more radical means, there were many of them who would not support absolute equality between whites and blacks. At the close of _Caste_, the hero, a white man, marries the heroine, the daughter of a quadroon, realizing that he and his children will be social outcasts. Such an arrangement would not be overly agreeable even to anti-slavery Northerners. To free the slave was one matter, but to marry the freed slave was quite another!

Mrs. Pike's high position among women writers of the 1850's was, however, recognized in literary circles. In November, 1857, appeared the first issue of the _Atlantic Monthly_, a new magazine devoted to literature, art, and politics. Among _Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography_ (New York, 1888), _V_, 19.
the literary persons listed as interested in the enterprise were Mrs. Pike, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Rose Terry, and Mrs. Gaskell, all prominent women writers of the period. It does not appear, however, that Mary Pike wrote any stories for the Atlantic Monthly.

In spite of the fact that Caste was not so popular as her first novel, Mrs. Pike now undertook the writing of her third work. She shifted the scene of her novel, Agnes, to the American Revolution. In a letter of Frederick Pike to M. D. Phillips, publisher, we learn that Mr. Phillips was evidently reluctant to publish Mrs. Pike's third novel, although he had previously agreed to do so. Mr. Pike does not name the novel in his letter dated June 21, 1857; it is doubtful, however, that Mrs. Pike had a manuscript which was never published. Portions of Mr. Pike's letter are quoted below:

The mercantile blunder of the last publication [Caste] was freely commented upon by all interested before any outlay was made.

How much was made by one book [Ida May] or lost by the other [Caste] has never been a subject of inquiry by either of us....

Should you think the present manuscript would not pay, you need have no delicacy or hesitation in saying so. In that case it will not be published unless some respectable bookseller comes to a different conclusion....

Evidently Mr. Phillips overcame his reluctance to publish the novel, and Agnes appeared in 1858. It was the third and

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40 Letter contained in the manuscript division, Boston Public Library.
last of Mrs. Pike's novels. In a note at the end of *Agnes*, Mrs. Pike mentions a story which she had written some time earlier for the Philadelphia newspapers, but no trace of the story has been found.

Although Mrs. Pike gave up writing novels, she nevertheless had many interests. She took up still life and landscape painting and became a pleasing amateur painter. She found no lack of subjects for painting in the beautiful surroundings of Calais. She was always active socially and philanthropically.

Mrs. Pike was much fascinated by the political scene, and when Frederick began his political career as Republican representative from Washington County in the Maine legislature in 1858 and for two successive terms, she shared his career, as much as she was able, with enthusiasm and interest.
CHAPTER V  LATER YEARS (1869-1886)

From 1869, with the beginning of Frederick Pike's political career, through 1889 the Pike's spent their winters in Washington society, and from that time, until the death of Mrs. Pike in 1908, their social position was envied and copied by others. Their社交 life was a model for others to emulate. Mrs. Pike's gracious personality was favorably received in Washington society.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS PIKE  MARY HAYDEN GREEN PIKE
1817-1886  1824-1908
CHAPTER V  LATER YEARS (1859-1908)

From 1858, with the beginning of Frederick Pike's political career, through 1869 the Pikes spent their winters in Augusta, Washington, and Baltimore, and the remaining time at their home in Calais.

In 1860 Frederick was Speaker of the Maine House; in 1861 he was elected as Republican representative to Congress, and served four successive terms from March 4, 1861, to March 3, 1869. He was in attendance at the important 37th, 38th, 39th, and 40th Congresses during the Civil War years and the period of reconstruction. He served for six years as chairman of the naval committee. In February, 1862, he delivered his first speech in Congress. The main text of this speech, in support of President Lincoln, was, "Tax, fight, and emancipate."

Even during the war years, Washington was the scene of a sparkling sodal life in which the Pikes naturally participated. They were friends of the Hamlins and Blaines, who further encouraged Mrs. Pike's anti-slavery views. William H. Barnes in his account of the Fortieth Congress reveals the fact that Mrs. Pike's gracious personality was favorably received in Washington society.

[The wife of Frederick A. Pike is] a lady of rare endowments of heart and mind. After the experience of
a winter in the South, she wrote "Ida May" and some other novels, which were received by the public with great favor. Her mental activity and acquirements have been chiefly displayed, however, in a rare conversational talent, which makes her the charm of the social circle.41

Although no papers of legal adoption have been found, when the Pikes went to Washington Mary Stearns accompanied them as their daughter. 42 She addressed Frederick and Mary as "father" and "mother."

Mrs. Pike was in Washington in 1862 when her brother, Captain Thomas Hayden Green was there, with the staff of General Henry Prince's army, awaiting orders to join the Western army. She enjoyed being with Thomas, whom she admired and dearly loved. How proud she must have been of this young man, her only brother, who was fighting for the cause which meant so much to her! Yet she must have been anxious for him, as were those who prayed for him at home--his mother, his father, and his sweetheart, the sister of George King, who later purchased the "Ida May" house in Calais.

On August 9, 1862, Captain Thomas H. Green was killed in action in the battle of Cedar Mountain while attempting to rescue General Prince, who had been taken prisoner. In a letter to Charles B. Hayden, her cousin, Mrs. Pike enclosed a memorial to her brother. Although it may have been intended for the Bow-


42 Letter from Mrs. Herman I. Thomsen of Baltimore, Maryland, March 15, 1947.
doin College press, it was never published. A portion, characteristically sentimental, is quoted below:

But when the bereaved heart asked with irrepressible bitterness what did he for the proud beautiful flag worthy of so much loss and suffering, there comes the whisper of Christian faith, saying that no deadly missile speeds its way in the midst of battle unguided by the will of Him with whom are the hours of life and death and that a man has learned life's lesson well when he can dare to die in obedience to duty.43

From 1861 to 1866 while Frederick was in Washington, James Pike was United States Minister to the Netherlands. Although he was able to act effectively at the Hague, James missed being at home, and was greatly concerned with the progress of the war between the North and South. Since his ministerial duties were light, he spent some time travelling in England and on the Continent. In England he saw Dickens and visited Carlyle and Tennyson, whom he commented upon in his diary-journal. He enjoyed stimulating discussions with Carlyle, who held differing views on the subject of slavery; Tennyson he thought pompous, affected, and uninspiring.44 On his return to this country in 1866, James purchased the old Brewer Tavern in Robbinston, Maine, which he used as a summer home. Here he lived with his second wife and his daughter, except for occasional visits to the South. In 1872 he visited

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Letter dated May 22, 1865, from Mrs. Mary Hayden Green Pike to Charles B. Hayden containing a memorial of her brother.

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South Carolina to collect material for his book *A Prostrate State; South Carolina under Negro Government*, published in 1872, which pointed out the evils of a government sponsored by the "carpetbaggers."

On March 7, 1867, Elijah Dix Green, father of Mary Hayden Green Pike, died at his home in Calais. Mrs. Pike felt greatly the loss of so kindly and lovable a father, whose gentle disposition had been her heritage. The community, too, grieved at the passing of one of its prominent citizens.

After the completion of Frederick's last term in Congress in 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Pike went to Europe in the company of General Robert Schenck, who had been appointed minister to England. The group probably went over in May. The Pikes were about nine months in Europe, during which time Frederick effected for himself and his associates the purchase of the New Brunswick and Canada Railway property. While in Europe the Pikes spent some time in Italy, which Mrs. Pike liked very much. In Rome she saw the Pope, although she did not have an audience with him. We do not know all the places which Mr. and Mrs. Pike visited, but an interesting story, though not verified, is that Mrs. Pike, while in Constantinople, aided General Lew Wallace in collecting material for his popular novel, *Ben Hur: A Tale of Christ*, published in 1880.

Information concerning Mrs. Pike's European trip was obtained chiefly from letters of Mrs. Kate Oudesluys and Mrs. Herman I. Thomsen.
One can imagine the stories and articles brought home by Mrs. Pike from Europe with which to entertain and delight her friends and relatives. Some of their European purchases were perhaps used by the Pikes to ornament their new home, "Thorncroft," a beautiful and spacious house at what is now 293 Main Street in Calais.

From 1875 to 1885 the Pikes lived in Calais, usually spending their winters in Florida or in the South. The Pike estate was one of the most beautiful, if not the most beautiful, in Calais. Five acres of lawn, grove, and hedge, with graperies, orchards, and gardens, surrounded the large square brown house. Fine elm trees almost hid the house from view, while hothouses and flower beds were on every side. The entrance to the grounds, lined with tall trees, was a gateway in imitation of that of a French chateau. Spacious grounds conveyed the feeling of ease and retirement which the Pikes enjoyed. Frederick was particularly proud of the graperies, and Mary used to paint clusters of grapes for him.

Mrs. Pike, now in her early fifties, was described as an unusual woman, unusual to look at, fine in strength of features, and lively in expression. Although she was of a serious nature, she had a keen sense of humor. She fully appreciated a joke, many of which her sister provided. She was, nevertheless, somewhat of a dreamer. Deeply religious, 

Letter from Mrs. Albion H. Eaton, Portland, Maine, August 12, 1934.
"THORNCROFT"

293 Main Street, Calais

Frederick was active in the early business affairs and in politics. He owned timber lands in Perry, Maine, and at other points along the St. Croix River; he held stock in the European and North American railroads and in later Florida and Western lines. He was principal owner of the Calais Gas Company, established in the late seventies; part owner of the

still she had a broad outlook on life. She was always described as an extremely interesting conversationalist. Writing and speaking fluently were effortless for her.

At Thorncroft Mrs. Pike gave frequent receptions for her famous husband, of whom she was justly proud. These gatherings for her husband were delightful tributes to his generally recognized ability and social popularity. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pike were fond of people and interested in the welfare of those less fortunately situated than they. In 1875 Mrs. Pike was second directress of the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Calais.47

Mrs. Pike's home was usually filled with relatives and friends, of whom there were many, both her own and her husband's. As a rule she entertained in a simple but elegant manner. Perhaps there were other servants besides the Scotch cook, who was with the family for many years and who was finally buried in the Pike family lot. Surely there was as much loyalty and devotion in a well-treated Northern servant as in a Southern slave.

Frederick was active in his many business affairs and in politics. He owned timber lands in Perry, Maine, and at other points along the St. Croix River; he held stock in the European and North American Railroad and in some Florida and Western lines. He was principal owner of the Calais gas works, established in the late seventies; part owner of the

Red Beach Granite Works, established in 1876; and principal owner of the Red Beach plaster mill.

In politics Frederick was for a time severely censured by his party, which he left in 1872 to run as a "Greeley Democrat" for Congress. He was defeated, and returned to the Republican fold during the "Greenback" movement of 1878. While his "desertion" of the party may have been criticized by its members, Frederick was, nevertheless, consistent in his support of the economic policy which many Republicans abandoned during Grant's administration. In 1876, supported by both Democrats and Republicans, he was nominated and elected to the Maine legislature. In 1877 he was again in the Maine legislature.

Frederick, like his brother James, loved his native town and its pleasing scenery. It is not difficult to imagine the gay family parties that were held both in Calais and at James' home in Robbinston. The brothers both liked to have lively people in their vicinity, and doubtless their pleasing personalities, interesting experiences, and hospitable natures attracted many guests to their homes. The elder brother owned a yacht which was usually at the disposal of friends and relatives. Gay parties of which James and his family were ready participants made excursions along the St. Croix River and Passamaquoddy Bay. Frederick felt keenly the loss of his brother, who died at Calais on November 24, 1882, while en route to the South for the winter months.
In 1883 Frederick retired from active law business and from politics. He interested himself in gardening, in raising fowl and cattle, and in growing various varieties of grapes. He was active until the time of his death, which occurred in Calais on December 2, 1886. Obituaries of him in the Eastport and Calais papers gave testimony to the extensive capabilities of the man and to the high regard which his fine qualities merited. At his death Frederick Pike left a considerable estate to his wife.

After the death of her husband, Mary Pike, although maintaining her Calais home, to which she returned regularly each year, lived for nine years with her adopted daughter, Mrs. Morgan Taylor, in Plainfield, New Jersey. Here she busied herself with church work and with her painting.

Since the publication of Mrs. Pike's novels, there had been an erroneous identification of her with other writers. Mrs. Elizabeth Pike, second wife of James S. Pike, and Mary Caroline Pike, daughter of the journalist and niece of Mrs. Mary Pike, had both contributed to Harper's Magazine, and the three Pike women had probably been confused. Miss Emily Jolly, an English author, and Mrs. Frances West (Atherton) Pike, a Maine writer, had also been confused with the author of the anti-slavery novel Ida May.\footnote{In the Dictionary of American Biography, in Appletons' Cyclopaedia of American Biography, and in Williamson's Bibliography of the State of Maine from the Earliest Period to}
letter to the "Notes and Queries" section of a Boston newspaper, disclaimed the authorship of all save the three novels — Ida May, Caste, and Agnes.

About 1895 Mrs. Pike went to Switzerland where she spent the summer at Davos Platz with Mrs. Morgan Taylor and with Mrs. Taylor's daughter Edith.

Upon Mrs. Pike's return to this country in 1896, she lived with her sister, Mrs. Charles Hart Smith, in Baltimore. The two sisters did work at the Chinese Sunday School of the

1891, Mary Hayden Green Pike is listed as the author of three novels: Ida May, Caste, and Agnes. In Leypoldt's American Catalogue Mrs. Pike appears as the writer of three books for young people, Climbing and Sliding, Striving and Gaining, and Every Day, books which were written by Mrs. Frances West (Ather-ton) Pike, born in Prospect, Maine, in 1819, and later married to the Reverend Richard Pike of Dorchester, Massachusetts; in Cushing's Initials and Pseudonyms, Mary H. Pike is listed as the writer of Climbing and Sliding, a book for boys; in the Dictionary of American Biography Mrs. Pike is said to be the author of three books for juveniles. In Allibone's Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British and American Authors, she is listed as the author of Caste and a number of other novels written by a contemporary English author, Miss Emily Jolly, who also wrote a Caste, published about the same time as Mrs. Pike's novel, and whose subsequent novels were inscribed "By the author of Caste"; Leypoldt's American Catalogue gives proper credit to Miss Jolly. In Williamson's Bibliography of Maine writers, Mrs. Pike appears as the writer of a short story written by Mrs. James Shepherd Pike, and published in Harper's Magazine in November, 1858. In her note to the Boston Transcript, published January 12, 1889, Mrs. Pike denies the authorship of all novels save Ida May, Caste, and Agnes, and refers the reader to Appleton's Cyclopaedia of Distinguished Americans, which accredits her with those three novels. In a note at the end of Agnes, Mrs. Pike (initials "M. L.") mentions a tale which she wrote some years earlier for a Philadelphia newspaper, but no trace of the story has been found.

49 Boston Transcript, January 12, 1889, p. 6.

50 Letter from Mrs. H. I. Thomsen, November 26, 1946.
PIKE MONUMENT AND FAMILY LOT

Calais, Maine
Eutaw Place Baptist Church, which Mrs. Pike regularly attended. During these years she educated a young man, who later labored as a missionary in China, his native land.

In 1904 Mrs. Smith died, and Mrs. Pike spent the rest of her life at the home of Mrs. Smith's daughter, Mrs. Kate Oudesluys, in Baltimore. The last years of her life were passed in failing health and retirement.

At the age of eighty-three Mary Hayden Green Pike died at the home of her niece in Baltimore on January 15, 1908. Several days later she was buried in Calais in the Pike family lot. An obituary of Mrs. Pike expresses the loss which the community felt at her death:

A great and good woman has passed from among us, leaving to relatives a lasting memory of a wide love; to friends, the effects of a strong and enduring friendship; to the world the incomputable results of a large philanthropy; and to the church an influence that will live through the endless ages.

The Baptist church has lost an honored, cherished and loyal member, and the community not hemmed in by state lines, mourns the departure of a cultured, gracious, Christian woman.

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52 Copied from a newspaper clipping in the records of the Second Baptist Church of Calais.
In the 1850's when Emerson's *Representative Men*, Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, Melville's *Moby Dick*, Thoreau's *Walden*, Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, and Holmes's *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table* appeared, feminine novelists were writing sentimental and melodramatic stories which were greatly admired by the common people. Of these novelists Harriet Beecher Stowe was the most popular, and her *Uncle Tom's Cabin* has become a classic. The decade 1850-1860 was marked by emotionalism and religious fervor, and women writers fed the emotions which were to blaze out with the publication of Mrs. Stowe's novel. In addition the "feminine fifties" were prudish; realism was rated with things vulgar and unrefined. Whitman and Melville did not fare well in a decade when "Grace Greenwood" (Sarah J. C. Lippincott), Mary Jane Holmes, Louise Chandler Moulton, Susan Warner, Maria S. Cummins, "Fanny Fern" (Sarah Willis Parton), and Caroline Lee Hentz were "scribbling," and when the combined sales of their books totaled in excess of 500,000 copies in three years.

Maria Cummins' *The Lamplighter*, published in 1854 and damned by Hawthorne, was a romance showing the influence of Jane

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Eyre, Wuthering Heights, and Dickens. Fern Leaves from Fanny's Portfolio by Fanny Fern (sister of Nathaniel Parker Willis) was a collection made up of Mrs. Parton's contributions to many magazines. Her brother could not see merit in her writings, but in spite of this fact the moralizing sentimentality of the book made it a best-seller at the time of its publication in 1853. Caroline Lee Hentz's pro-slavery novel The Planter's Northern Bride, published in 1854, presented the slavery question as viewed by a Northern-born woman who had spent most of her later life in the South. Despite severe criticism, these novelists could or would not change the quality of their writing. That some of the most talented of them—by catering to the public demand for Richardsonian tear-jerkers—sacrificed a more lasting fame for immediate popularity is to be regretted.

Of the feminine novelists of the 1850's none has won a lasting reputation except Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote the first abolitionist novel. Mrs. Stowe did not preach or argue in her novels. She aroused emotion through the speech and actions of her characters themselves. Her artistry in fiction writing is displayed by her ability to stimulate the interest of the reader and to hold his attention to the last page of the story. Her masterpiece is as readable today as it was in the mid-nineteenth century.

Inspired by Uncle Tom's Cabin, Mary Hayden Green Pike wrote two anti-slavery novels in the sentimental and melodramatic style of the period. Whereas Ida May, her first novel, had a
wide circulation at the time of its appearance, it never gained the reputation or the lasting popularity of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Although it does not have the great story interest of Mrs. Stowe's novel, it probably did much to aid the abolitionist cause.

II.

I have not written in vain, if the thoughts suggested by the perusal of this book shall arouse in any heart a more intense love of freedom, or bring from any lip a more intense protest against the extension of that system which, alike for master and servant, poisons the springs of life, subverts the noblest instincts of humanity, and, even in the most favorable circumstances, entails an amount of moral and physical injury to which no language can do justice.  

*Ida May* is the story of a white child sold into slavery. Ida is the only daughter of Ernest May, a man of means who lives in the "interior of Pennsylvania." Shortly after the birth and death of his only son, Mr. May is called upon to bear also the death of his consumptive wife. Before he has time to recover from the first grief caused by his wife's death, another unfortunate incident occurs.

Ida May on her fifth birthday, "one of those glorious days in June," goes with her young nursemaid Bessy to gather flowers along the side of a lonely road. As the pair reach the top of a hill, a carriage, followed by two men, approaches. Ida has never looked more lovely:
The mourning-dress showed her clear, dark complexion to great advantage; her cheeks and lips were like blushing rosebuds, and her brilliant eyes were lighted with merriment.

One of the men approaches her and asks her several questions. After a few moments he sends Bessy halfway down the hill to recover a whip which he says he has dropped. While Bessy is gone she hears a shriek and turning, sees the man thrust Ida May into the carriage and drive off hastily. Poor Bessy runs after them for almost two miles, but finally loses sight of the carriage and is forced to return home to tell Mr. May. Ida's father pursues her captors as far as Maryland, but here he loses all trace of the vehicle containing Ida and her kidnappers. Knowing the route which the men have probably taken, Mr. May fears that his daughter has been sold into slavery, and he spends two years visiting the slave markets of the Southern states, growing sick with apprehension as he sees the sufferings and evils which are inseparable from the slavery system. Mr. May follows one vague clew after another, and finally after about three years, his friends hear that he is planning to embark for France to seek his daughter. A hurricane destroys the vessel on which he is supposed to have sailed.

Meanwhile Ida May is taken by her captors to a cave on the border of the free states; this place is the rendezvous for a band of kidnappers. The cave is in charge of Chloe, a vicious and depraved negress, who beats the girl unmercifully

to revenge herself on the white race.

Ida loses her beauty under the strain, fatigue, and abuse which she has endured since her capture. She has been made to appear like a colored child; but since she will not bring so much in the sales as she would if she had retained her health and beauty, the two men, on the way to the slave market, sell her for thirty dollars to Mr. James Bell, a Carolina plantation owner. Mr. Bell is a kindhearted man and turns Ida over to Venus, the family seamstress, to restore to health. "Aunt Venus," though she has a stupid face, is not long in discovering that Ida May is not colored; but since the child has lost her memory and Mr. Bell is not interested in investigating the matter, Ida remains in the slave quarters on the plantation. The child's life, however, is not unpleasant; Venus cares for her, and Ida does little work. Although she recovers her beauty, Ida has lost her vivacity, and frequently sits for hours doing little but gazing into space. She seems lost in a trance in which vague recollections of her real identity and background sometimes disturb her quiet.

Ida...would have been happy, but for the dim, haunting memories that came over her in dreams and in her waking hours, rousing an undefined pain, as of something lacking from her life, and for the stern consciousness of her present position, which, though dimly realized at first, became as she grew older more and more the engrossing topic of thought and fear, and led her to shun more entirely those sports and that companionship with her young masters and mistresses which exposed her to the necessity of recognizing the relation in which she stood to them.56

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56 Ibid., p. 102.
When Ida is about ten years old, Mr. Bell, at the instigation of his wife, sells Ida and Venus, along with other slaves, in order to get money. Ida and her adopted mother are purchased by the nearby plantation owner, Charles Maynard, whose nephew, Walter Varian, has already been entranced by the delicate beauty of Ida May at a previous chance encounter. At Wynn Hall, where Mr. Maynard lives with his sister and her family, Ida recovers her memory, and proof of her identity is furnished by an article of her dress which Venus has kept and which bears her name in fine embroidery. Ida is accepted as a member of the family after all attempts to find her father have failed.

After a short time Ida and Mabel Wynn are sent to a boarding school in Baltimore, while Mr. Maynard and Walter tour Europe. Mr. Maynard dies in Germany, where Walter is studying law at the University of Göttingen. Upon Walter's return to the Wynn plantation, he reveals great admiration for his beautiful but haughty cousin Mabel, whom he has decided to marry. Mabel causes Walter to abandon temporarily the anti-slavery views for which Ida May had respected him.

Upon her return from school Ida has the opportunity of observing more closely the abuses of the slavery system. Mr. Wynn is violently pro-slavery, and will do anything to uphold the Southern institution of which his plantation is a part. When Alfred, the son of Maum Abby (a faithful and privileged slave at the Wynn plantation), marries Elsie, a free negress, and plans to flee to the North with her, Mr. Wynn, who discovers
Alfred's intention of escaping, decides to have him harshly beaten. After a conversation with Mr. Wynn in which the master threatens his negro, Alfred commits suicide rather than live any longer as a slave. Ida gravely reproaches Mr. Wynn for his conduct.

Under the guardianship of Mr. Wynn, who strongly disapproves of her attitude toward slavery, Ida finds life intolerable at Wynn Hall and decides to carry out her intention of educating and freeing the slaves left to her by Mr. Maynard. She and the faithful Venus flee to the former's small estate, the Triangle, where Ida is rescued from the villainy of Mr. Porter, the overseer, by Walter, who leaves Wynn Hall during a storm to come to her aid. A stranger to whom Walter has given assistance on the way to the estate through the storm proves to be Ida's father, and there is a joyful reunion between Mr. May and his long-lost daughter. Father and daughter continue with the plans to educate the slaves for freedom.

Walter has now begun to realize the weakness of Mabel and the strength of Ida. The heartless and conscienceless Mabel, jealous of Walter's attentions to Ida May, secretly engages herself to Colonel Ross, a millionaire, and incites a mob of "poor white" Southerners to attack Ida and her father in their home. They are rescued by Mr. Wynn, who realizes the danger of encouraging mob violence. Ida and Mr. May must now leave the South for safety, but do not forget the slaves, who are properly cared for. Walter is now free to marry Ida.
With the support of her strong convictions, he once more renews his faith in the righteousness of the abolitionist cause.

As a novel of propaganda, *Ida May* does not cling closely enough to the subject of slavery to be so strong an argument for abolitionism as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Although Mrs. Pike was ardent in her belief that the slavery system was a moral evil, she did not in her novel utilize unnecessarily long and lurid scenes to transfer her enthusiasm to others. While the scenes in which Ida is beaten by Chloe and in which Alfred is driven to commit suicide are melodramatic, they do not describe small physical details or dwell endlessly on the horrors of the situations as, for instance, does the scene of Uncle Tom's punishment and death at the hands of Simon Legree. Mrs. Pike leaves something to the imagination of the readers, and perhaps it is easier for one to put himself in a white person's place among the slaves than in the position of Alfred or Uncle Tom of the colored race.

Mrs. Pike's interest in her plot and characterizations and her strong feeling against the evils of the slavery system produce a melodramatic and sentimental story which, in spite of its faults, has some power. Her attitude toward the cruelties of the Southern plantation life is best expressed through the character of Ida, whose Northern views clash with those of Walter. The young Varian, as he grows older and more worldly wise, changes the earlier opinions which he held in sympathy with Ida. When Ida reproaches him for betraying what is
good and noble in himself, Walter wants to know why he should profess to be wiser and better than those Southerners who have learned to accept what is best for their own convenience. Ida answers his rhetorical question with a comment which expresses Mrs. Pike's answer to those who adopt the line of least resistance:

Ida raised her clear, dark eyes to his face, and the flowery crimson of her cheek deepened, as she replied, in a low, earnest tone, "Because 'every man shall give an account of himself to God.'"57

In this passage the writer, in a typically sentimental passage, gives her own views on the ethical and moral responsibility which she feels is cast aside by those Southerners who become immune to any responsibility of that nature. The above scene illustrates the course which Mrs. Pike adopts throughout her novel: that of portraying the principal characters of the work by means of a love story which is built around the underlying theme of the evils of slavery.

Mrs. Pike, though interested in her characters, does not develop them so fully as she might. She is interested in what they do and say, but not so much in why they are as they are. We do not have a clear picture of each character in the novel. Perhaps one reason for this fact is that they have a tendency to be "typed," For instance, Mabel symbolizes evil, as Ida symbolizes goodness and virtue. Yet Ida, while perhaps

57 Ibid., p. 280.
an overly sweet heroine, is more realistically drawn than little Eva in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. She has many good qualities, but is not perfect. She is generous, but still human enough to resent Walter's attachment to the sophisticated, spoiled Mabel. When she speaks to Walter about Mabel, she holds her own opinion of the other girl in reserve, although the reader can readily imagine what it is.

"I do not wish to tell you what I think..., Walter. I know that she [Mabel] does not like me, and I fear I do not like her well enough to estimate her character truly. I believe it must be partly my fault, for she seems to be universally admired; but, certainly, our spheres do not accord...."58

Ida is trying to be just, but some readers may wonder why she does not give her candid opinion of the selfish Mabel, when Walter gives her the opportunity.

Mrs. Pike uses contrast in her characterizations—for instance, between Mabel and Ida. Mabel is dazzlingly beautiful, while Ida is merely pretty until her face is animated by the enthusiasm which she displays in conversation. Besides this exterior contrast, there is a difference in their mentality and in their views. Mabel upholds the slavery system, which Ida denounces. As Ida so aptly puts it when Mabel reports to her that Walter has found his cousin much more beautiful than Ida upon his return from Europe:

"When he becomes further acquainted with us, I suppose he will come to the conclusion that there is no more

58 Ibid., p. 417.
comparison between the inside than there is between the outside of our heads." 59

This shaft does not completely miss its mark, and Mabel is vexed with Ida for presuming to think that Walter would decide and issue between the two girls in favor of Ida. Undoubtedly a reader of the 1850's loved Ida and despised Mabel.

There is contrast, too, between Charles Maynard and his brother-in-law, Mr. Wynn, as there is between Mrs. Stowe's St. Clare and his brother. Mr. Maynard is the kind and benevolent slave owner; Mr. Wynn, the irritable plantation owner, who has no tolerance of abolitionists, particularly when his own interests are affected.

Mrs. Pike is more attentive to the details of setting than of characterization. With the eye of an artist, she had viewed surroundings of natural beauty. The reader notes her descriptions of the plantations and of plantation life, although her style detracts from a full enjoyment of them. Her description of Christmas Eve at Wynn Hall makes the reader aware that Mrs. Pike was not unconscious of the charm which very often made up a large part of plantation life.

The air is soft and still, but the sky is clouded and the night is dark, and the flood of light, that streams from every window of the mansion, falls in long lines through the misty atmosphere far in among the stately pines that have kept solemn "watch and ward" over so many succeeding periods of Christmas festivity. Lights are flashing also in yonder grove, which may be seen far away across the cotton fields; and, beneath the glare of the flaming torches, a joyous multitude of the

59 Ibid., p. 237.
"field people" are here, around a well-spread table, gorging themselves with meats of different kinds, which they taste now for the first time in a year.60

Not only in scenes of plantation life but also in those involving natural scenery, Mrs. Pike reveals her powers of observation and description. She displays her interest in settings by her attention to such things as flowers, birds, or a river.

Far up the mountain, on the southern slope of which lay the Bell plantation, were the springs that fed a rivulet which came dashing, sparkling and leaping down its steep, rocky bed, occasionally spreading out for a little space into small pools, where the birds came to drink, and where the sun-beams, glinting brightly through green leaves, kissed the flowers that mirrored themselves in the smooth waters. Then hurrying on again, it played "hide-and-seek" around huge logs, the wreck of some forest tornado; or piles of drift-wood that its own course had heaped; or immense boulders, preordained obstructions flung in its path by the throes and struggles of the primeval world.61

Mrs. Pike does not overemphasize unnecessarily her settings, but the reader has the feeling that the author thoroughly enjoys describing them.

Although the plot of Ida May helps to bring out the underlying anti-slavery theme, it contains many unreal and improbable situations: the discovery of Ida's identity, the arrival of Walter at the Triangle at just the right time, and the reunion of Mr. May and his daughter at the Triangle also. These over-romantic situations weaken the interest of the novel for the modern reader.

60 Ibid., pp. 214-215.

61 Ibid., p. 92.
Mrs. Pike's sentimental style of writing is perhaps her greatest weakness. She shared this style with other feminine writers of the 1850's. Unfortunately, what appealed to many of her readers then, became particularly distasteful to later perusers of the popular novel. Her failure to introduce humor into Ida May detracts immeasurably from its appeal. She might have made use of the contrast of tragedy and comedy to enliven her story. If Ida was suggested by Eva in Uncle Tom's Cabin and Mr. Potter by Simon Legree, there is no character in Mrs. Pike's first novel to parallel Topsy. We miss Topsy, with her antics and droll remarks, and with her pathos.

Another weakness in Mrs. Pike's style is the frequent use of trite figures of speech: "like a bird darting into her nest," "like a moth round a candle," "quiet tears, that fell like dew-drops upon the roses." In addition to these similes, Mrs. Pike uses effusive phrases and piles adjective on adjective to achieve a cloying sweetness that fails to affect the modern reader favorably. He also fails to sympathize with the blush­ing and the fainting fits of the female characters in the novel.

Yet there are occasional passages in which Mrs. Pike writes simply and directly, and in a few words says much. One of these we find in Maum Abby's words to Ida after the latter's experiences at the Triangle:

"You have had many sorrows and trials; I used to see them when you lived at our house sometimes, and there were others greater, that came before and afterwards; but now, I hope, they are all over, and you have nothing but happi­ness before you. You have tried to do right, and you have
been a blessing to many poor creatures that had nobody else to help them. You have not been selfish or afraid to do your duty, and I know God will bless you..."⁶²

Nor are these simple speeches confined to negro slaves. Mrs. Pike sums up very adequately the character of Mabel in the few words which the girl speaks to her father when she finds that Walter no longer cares for her. In humiliation she explains her feelings to her father: "It is the lost love I regret,... not the lost lover."⁶³ Mabel cares not a whit for Walter, but she resents the fact that Ida has won the prize for which they were rivals. One wishes that the novelist had used an unaffected style throughout the story, which is not totally lacking in interest.

The characters in Ida May are quite well drawn, if somewhat lacking in focus; the central plot is highly romantic and fictional; the settings are better than either plot or characterization. If the reader of the novel can overlook the sentimental style of writing, he will perhaps enjoy the story. Although he will recognize that Mrs. Pike's novel does not have the power of Mrs. Stowe's, he will realize that Ida May, like Uncle Tom's Cabin a product of the 1850's, was one of the forces which stimulated emotion and imagination and which helped to instigate the Civil War.

⁶² Ibid., p. 423.

⁶³ Ibid., p. 395.
CHAPTER VII  CASTE: A STORY OF REPUBLICAN EQUALITY

Mrs. Pike's second novel, *Caste*, published in 1856 under the pseudonym Sydney A. Story, Jr., is likewise an anti-slavery novel. It dwells on one aspect of the slavery question, confining itself principally to the cruelty of race discrimination. This novel was not so popular as *Ida May*.

The story opens in New York with the marriage of Julie Conant to Charles Dupré, a handsome young man who is employed by Julie's father. Helen Dupré, a governess in South Carolina, has come to the North for her brother's wedding. Although the Duprés, brother and sister, have been well educated and accepted in the best of society, their parentage is unknown even to them. Their education has been secured by means of money anonymously sent to the school which they attended.

After the wedding Julie tries to persuade Helen to make her home with the new couple, but Helen will not leave her position as governess with the Warner family in the South. Mrs. Warner has been very kind to Helen, and although governesses are generally not accepted as social equals by the plantation families of the South, Mrs. Warner treats Helen as an equal in all respects. On her return to the South by boat, Helen is
met by Hubert Warner, the only unmarried son of the Warners. He is in love with her and has determined to win the beautiful, talented, and proud Helen, who further spurs him on by refusing to respond to his feelings. On the boat Helen is also surprised by Colonel Bell, a neighbor of the Warners, who thinks he sees in Helen someone whom he has known previously.

Helen's life at the Warner's is very happy. The plantation is run in a most efficient but kindly manner, and the slaves are happy and well cared for. Helen has never had any reason to form an unfavorable opinion of the slavery system, for she sees only a few examples of its real cruelties. One of these is the separation of Kissy, a servant of the Warners, and her husband, Michel, who has been sold by his mistress, the wife of Colonel William Bell. Hubert and Helen help to secrete the escaped Michel in order that he and Kissy may begin a new life together somewhere else.

Colonel Bell and his wife, Clara, are a strange couple. Although they appear to get along amicably when they appear in society, they are hostile in private. This is Bell's second marriage. Clara is a beautiful but unprincipled woman, who loves the glamor of city life from which she has been removed by the Colonel because of her immoral and irregular life. She attempts in every way to persuade him to take her to Europe, and failing in this, does everything she can to make his life disagreeable. Life is miserable to her, for although she
adorns herself in beautiful array, there is no one to see and
admire her. She looks down on Helen as a social inferior, and
Helen in turn dislikes the haughty, disagreeable woman.

Finally Helen, who has feared that Hubert is only
trifling with her affections, learns that he wants to marry
her. She realizes that she is also in love with him, and
they become engaged. The Warners are very pleased with the
arrangement.

By this time Colonel Bell knows that Helen is his
daughter by the lovely quadroon Corilla with whom, although
forbidden to marry her, he had been deeply in love. He has
done all he can to keep the secret of the parentage of Helen
and Charles from them in order that they may never have to
bear the stigma which must inevitably fall upon them if it is
known who their mother was. Unfortunately, a former friend of
his, Robert Bernard, who has fallen into degradation and vice,
recognizes Corilla's features in the face of Helen, and Colonel
Bell is forced to bribe him to keep the secret. His wife sees
a picture of Corilla secreted in a hidden drawer of the Colonel's
desk, and likewise guesses that Helen is the daughter of her
husband. Now indeed Clara has a weapon to use against him to
gain her own ends. She threatens to reveal the secret which
she has discovered unless the Colonel agrees to take her away.
Her husband, driven too far, says that if she dares to reveal
the parentage of Helen, he will put his wife away in a madhouse.
Clara, not daring to come out with an open accusation, starts rumors which finally reach the ears of the Warners. They are greatly shocked and summon the Colonel, who can no longer keep his secret. Helen overhears the conversation and is stunned. Hubert does not at first believe the story, but is finally forced to accept its truth. The Warners, although sorry for Helen, now consider a marriage between her and their son impossible. Hubert is no mere boy, and he realizes that he will bring disgrace upon himself and his family if he marries Helen, but his love for her is not one that can be tossed off carelessly. He is torn between his desire to stand by his fiancée and his prejudice against the race which in his eyes is inferior. Mr. Warner tries to make Hubert see that such a marriage must not be thought of.

"...And now the story must be generally known, and you could never marry any body who was even suspected to be tainted with negro blood. Think of the disgrace it would cast upon your brothers and sisters, and what all the world would say about it! They would think you either crazy or a fool, and you would be ashamed of it yourself by and by."64

Hubert, nevertheless, decides to marry Helen and goes to see her. She realizes that he is still willing to marry her, but she cannot endure his condescension. Helen knows that under the circumstances they would never be happy together. She is made desperate by sorrow and grief, and though now in a weakened physical condition, manages to go to the home of Mrs. Xvenel, who is her friend. Here the Col-

64 "Sydney A. Story, Jr", Caste (Boston, 1856), p. 278.
onel tries to see Helen, but as she is very ill and moreover feels no daughterly affection for him, she refuses to allow him near her. When the Colonel learns that it is his wife who has caused Helen's unhappiness, he carries out his threat to have her confined to an asylum. Here Clara Bell spends the rest of her life, abandoned by all who have known her.

Mrs. Avenel writes Charles that Helen is very ill. Charles must leave Julie, who is about to have a child. He goes to South Carolina, and at the home of Mrs. Avenel finds Helen, who is about to take laudanum. After telling him the dreadful news of their parentage, she attempts to persuade Charles to drink the potion with her.

"It is escape,...it is rest; rest from this weary pain. 0 Charles, why should we not drink it? It is so dreadful to live! Born of the despised race,—the accursed race,—what hope is there for us in this world? Cast out to be trodden under foot,—the Pariahs of the earth from its creation until now,—where did our race ever find sympathy or help? Where can we find it, any more?"

Charles replies in a manner which apparently restores sanity to Helen's disorder mind:

"Dear Helen, God is good. He has permitted this to come upon us, and he will give us strength to bear it. Like yourself, I shudder to look into the future, for we cannot tell what is before us; but I know—I know our Father in heaven will not forsake us. His hand will lead us every step of the way, and if we lean upon it, it will guide us safely through. We may be cut off from all happiness or help in this world, but in the world to come is our everlasting portion; and our joy, our help, our comfort will come from God."

65 *Ibid., p. 410.*

66 *Ibid., p. 411.*
Charles returns home to find that the Conants, having learned of his parentage during his absence, share the same feeling as the Warners, and wish Julie to be separated from him. The tender, loving Julie cannot bear the shock of hearing her father say that she must never see Charles again, and she dies at the premature birth of her child a few days after her husband's return. Charles now decides to do missionary work for his own race in the Northern states. He feels that if the negroes are educated, they themselves will tear down the prejudice which has been built up against them. To this task he devotes the rest of his life.

Helen becomes reconciled with Colonel Bell and decides to travel abroad. While in Italy she meets Hubert Warner, who has come to realize that he cannot give up his love for Helen and no longer feels the prejudice which his parents and friends still retain. He and Helen are married and make their home in Italy, where they learn to know and love each other better.

*Caste* has a theme which interests people of any generation: the injustice of racial discrimination. Whereas Mrs. Pike concerns herself mainly with the problem of miscegenation, the general theme is pertinent as long as racial conflicts exist. It is one which has always occupied the minds of tolerant people, for more recent novels dealing with the same problem, see Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit* and Sinclair Lewis's *Kingsblood Royal*. See also the play *Deep are the Roots*, by Arnaud d'Usseau and James Gow.
and Mrs. Pike's novel, in that respect, is timely now as it was in the 1850's.

The characterization is on the whole better than that of *Ida May*. The characters are still contracted, and in addition the individual sketches are somewhat less typed. The central figure, Helen Dupré, is more vivid than Ida. A minor character, Julie Conant, is comparable to Ida. Charles's wife is too fragile and too good to be real.

She [Julie] had hardly numbered eighteen years, and she looked even younger, for her figure was small and delicate, her complexion pure as a lily, and her golden curls, soft and fine as floss silk, fell over mild blue eyes, that hid beneath their lashes if one sought to gaze into them; and her face was so innocent and childlike in its expression, that while looking at her, one experienced an involuntary desire that a being so pure and so helpless should never be called to encounter the storms of life.68

In physical appearance and in many other respects Helen and Julie are direct contrasts. Julie is the only character in *Caste* who seems almost completely unreal. She helps to furnish Charles with the religious inspiration which dominates his actions and causes him to save Helen and himself from destruction. This element of religion, strong in the sentimental novels of the period, is found in both *Ida May* and *Caste*.

In her second novel Mrs. Pike introduces humor through Gus, a lively "little nig" slave. Gus, as devilish though not so clever as Topsy, serves to heighten the interest of the story.

In the plot of *Caste* Mrs. Pike again makes use of improbable situations. The mysterious manner in which the Duprés acquired their education, the unusual meeting of Helen and the Colonel on the ship, and the arrival of Charles just as Helen is about to take laudanum seem forced into the plot without regard for credulity.

One of the most effective scenes in either anti-slavery novel is an episode entitled, "What's in a Name?" which occurs in *Caste*. Henry, a small negro boy, intelligent and sensitive, has been adopted by the younger Mrs. Avenel in New York. Mrs. Avenel, a tolerant, kind woman, has sent him to a school for white boys in the city, where the lad is tormented by his classmates. Rendered sad by the situation, Henry returns one day in tears and informs Mrs. Avenel of his plight. She is immediately aware of his feeling of inferiority, but does not oversympathize with him. Instead she speaks to him in a fashion which encourages him to gain self-respect and respect from others all through life.

"But you mind being called a nigger, child. You must conquer this. It is nothing to be ashamed of, that you belong to a different race from your schoolfellows. When they see it no longer teases you, they will no more think of using it as a term of reproach, than they would now think of calling you an Indian, to vex you. Accept it as a fact, and they will cease to apply it as an insult."  

Henry follows Mrs. Avenel's good advice and earns the high regard of his white classmates. It is this attitude which Charles Dupré

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Ibid., p. 356.
holds in common with Mrs. Avenel and which after Julie's death leads him to devote the rest of his life to the education and enlightenment of Northern negroes.

Mrs. Pike's style in this novel is still effusive and sentimental, and in the scene of Julie's death she outdoes herself in attempting to wring tears from the eyes of the reader. If Mrs. Stowe was ill for a few weeks after writing of the death of little Eva,70 one wonders what effect recording the death of Julie Conant Dupré had on Mrs. Pike.

The verbosity of the descriptive elements makes the novel unduly long. An illustration of Mrs. Pike's occasional waste of words is found in the following passage:

Swiftly the days sped on. O, happy days! Golden sands, dropped sparkling from the glass of Time, to gleam forever brightly amid the coarser and darker grains of common life.71

By eliminating or condensing such passages, Mrs. Pike might have found as much response among readers of her own day and certainly more among later ones.

The theme of Caste is a strong one, but Mrs. Pike's style is sentimental and her plot unrealistic. The characterization is better than that of Ida May. The author has injected humor into her novel and has combined sentimentality and social conflict to produce a story that was filled with appeal for

70 Pattee, op. cit., pp. 74-75.
71 "Story," op. cit., p. 120.
readers of her own generation.
CHAPTER VIII LATER WRITINGS

Agnes and "John Brown in Prison"

"Lightly thou say' st that woman's love is false;
The thought is falser far;
For some of them are true as martyrs' legends,—
As full of suffering faith, of burning love,
Of high devotion, worthier heaven than earth!
O, I do know a tale!"72

Mrs. Pike's last novel is a romance with a background of the American Revolution. In it she attempts to present, in addition to the main characters, a picture of the American Indian of the Delaware tribe.

As the tale opens, Major Percy Grey and his brother Frank Grey are at home on a brief respite from their army service. They have arrived to find their house ransacked, their fields burned, and their parents facing a hard winter because of a British raid. Stopping at the Grey home during the storm that evening are Mr. Chester and his daughter, Evelyn, at whose home Major Grey had previously been billeted. They are now on their way to New York City. Accompanying them is Colonel Stanley of the British Army, who treats Percy with contempt, but who is not molested because he is protecting Mr. Chester and Evelyn. Stanley is aware that there is a strong

72 Mary H. Pike, Agnes (Boston, 1858), title page.
attachment between Percy and Evelyn, with whom both officers are in love. Evelyn is in love with the Major, but cannot encourage him because her father considers him a "rebel."
Without the knowledge of his daughter, however, Mr. Chester is secretly aiding the Yankees, with whom Evelyn is in sympathy.

After the group leaves the Grey house, Percy worries about their welfare—particularly Evelyn's—and goes out into the storm to investigate the broken bridge not far from his home. Here he finds what appears to be a small boy who is badly injured and unconscious. Percy discovers that it is really a girl in boy's clothing and takes her home to his mother. The girl is ill for many weeks, and when she recovers, the Greys cannot learn from her the story of her life, which she does not confide to them. She asks to be called "Agnes." Frank falls deeply in love with her, but although she is fond of him, she does not encourage his advances.

Percy and Frank return to their divisions, and Percy's time is well taken up with fighting and carrying messages from General Lee, with whose division he is stationed, to General Washington. Charles Lee, an ill-natured officer, jealous of his superiors, refuses to obey an important order from Washington, thereby endangering the lives of the great general and his men. General Washington is forced to retreat into Jersey, and Lee is captured by the British and taken, along with Percy and other officers, to New York, which is in possession of the Eng-
Colonel Stanley in New York has asked Evelyn to marry him but has been refused. Made sport of by his subordinates for his unsuccessful love venture and coming into possession of papers from Mr. Chester to the "rebel" army, Stanley decides to use his information as a means of gaining his will with Evelyn. Rather than have her father exposed, Evelyn agrees to marry Stanley, whom she loathes. The Colonel wishes to have the marriage take place in a week, by which time Cornwallis expects to have completely defeated General Washington and his shabby army. As it happens, General Washington refuses to be defeated, and Stanley decides to try to win Evelyn's affections by returning the papers to her. Evelyn begins to hope that there may be a release for her from the humiliating bond, but Stanley gives her the papers only with the stipulation that she marry him at some future date. Evelyn has at least gained time.

Meanwhile Lawontica, an Indian princess who lives with her grandmother, Sanoso, has fallen in love with Frank. When she learns of his love for Agnes, she plans to avenge herself on him. She marries Tamaque, an Indian chief, arouses the

Envious of Washington because he had himself hoped to be commander-in-chief of the American Army, Charles Lee refused to join the main army when Washington ordered him to do so. As a result Lee was captured with some of his men at Basking Ridge, New Jersey, on December 13, 1776. Lee, then a prisoner, aided the British, while Washington was arranging for his exchange. Lee again began his treacherous activities and carried on a correspondence with Clinton and Howe.
Indians against the white people, and instigates the kidnap­ping of Agnes. Shortly after Agnes’s capture, Lawontica regrets her actions and does her best to care for the white girl. Eventually she learns the Agnes is not in love with Frank, and she aids in her return to the Greys. Lawontica, being a powerful force in the tribe, brings the Indians under control again.

During this time Percy has escaped from the prison camp. Stanley has in turn been taken prisoner and is confined not far from the Grey house, to which Mr. Chester and Evelyn have fled. When Stanley learns of their presence in the Grey home, he comes there to remind Evelyn of her promise to him. The girl is too proud not to keep her word. Agnes overhears the conversation between the couple, and reveals to Evelyn that she is Stanley’s wife. Evelyn and Percy are overjoyed to learn that there is nothing to prevent their union.

Agnes goes to see Colonel Stanley, who has believed her to be dead. He repulses her, and denies that she is his wife. Percy, Frank, and Evelyn, who have followed Agnes, enter the room. Agnes has no proof of her marriage to Stanley, since she lost the cap in the lining of which she had secreted the marriage certificate. Frank produces the cap, which he had

and vanity caused him to assume an attitude of intolerable arrogance toward Washington, who endured it because he had a high regard for Lee’s ability. Taking over the command from Lafayette at Monmouth, Lee effected a disgraceful retreat which was nothing short of treachery. He was court-martialed, suspended from the American Army, and never returned to it. For a detailed treatment of Lee’s treachery, see Carl Van Doren’s Secret History of the American Revolution (New York, 1941).
found near Agnes on the night when he and Percy brought her in from the storm. Stanley cannot now deny that Agnes is his wife, but he plots to rid himself of her. He takes her away and abandons her. Agnes realizes that he is deserting her and follows him, only to die of illness and exposure.

Frank and Colonel Stanley meet in battle, and Agnes's persecutor is killed.

Mrs. Pike's last novel, *Agnes*, contains a welcome change in theme and background. It is a story of the love of Agnes for Stanley, her husband, who does not return her love, and of the mutual love of Evelyn and Percy. The love plots are complicated by Stanley's desertion of Agnes; by his proposal to Evelyn, who does not know that Stanley is already married; and by his hold on Evelyn through her father. They are made even more complex by Frank's devotion to Agnes, his deep sorrow at her death, and his victory over Stanley by avenging Agnes's ill treatment; and by the wild and unprincipled passion of Lawontica for Frank, and her marriage to Tamaque, whom she persuades to kidnap Agnes. Mrs. Pike combines these threads of plot with the story of the Revolutionary War and of the Delaware Indians to create a novel which has points of interest but which involves so many elements that it is somewhat confusing.

The mystery surrounding Agnes provides suspense until the final discovery of her relationship to Colonel Stanley, which
is not revealed until the end of the tale. Although Agnes plays the role of the typical heroine of the sentimental novel—the sweet, virtuous maiden who is deluded, deceived, and betrayed by Stanley to her ultimate destruction—there is enough of historical interest in the story to counteract the unfortunate effect of the melodrama involved in the Agnes plot of the novel.

The character of Agnes is unrealistic; however the remaining characterizations are quite well done. Evelyn serves as a contrast to Agnes. She is brave, strong, courageous, and yet feminine. It is no wonder that Stanley admires her, even when she treats him with cold contempt, for she has the same determination that he possesses with a different direction.

Anger, reproaches, entreaties, he might have borne, but her dignified submission disarmed him. Of the self-sacrifice that prompted her actions he understood little; but the firmness with which she forced herself to meet what seemed inevitable he could appreciate and admire, for it was akin to his own strong will, and the inflexibility of his purposes.74

A study of the two brothers, Percy and Frank, reveals a marked difference in personality and temperament. Percy, the older brother, is dignified, self-restrained, and thoughtful; Frank is the fun-loving and irresponsible younger brother. Through the character of Frank Mrs. Pike adds an element of humor to the story. Unfortunately these two characters are somewhat typed, as is also Colonel Stanley, who is overwhelm-

74 Pike, Agnes, p. 176.
ingly wicked and depraved.

The conversation and actions of the characters in *Agnes* are for the most part less un lifel ike and theatrical than those of certain other characters in Mrs. Pike's anti-slavery novels. This lessening of sentimentality and melodrama makes Mrs. Pike's third novel more interesting to the modern reader.

Mrs. Pike still gives attention to settings, particularly the ones in which Lawontica and her grandmother, Sanoso, appear. When Frank, who has helped himself to his horse, which was sold by the British soldiers, hides deep in the forest to escape pursuit, he accidentally comes upon the home of his tow Indian friends:

...[Frank] found himself in a hollow or depression among the hills, nearly circular, and containing a small pool. This was now covered with thin blue ice, except in one spot where the living springs that fed it poured out their surplus of water in a stream that ran a little way, and was soon lost beneath the snow. Over this opening a willow threw its pendulous branches, and a few evergreens reared their dark spires beside it; but the remainder of the basin was destitute of trees, although the growth on the surrounding elevation was thicker than usual. In a line from the copse, a path might be traced to a low hut half-way up the hill opposite to where Frank stood; and as he hesitated whether to pursue his way homeward, or to stop for a few moments' chat with its inmates, the curtain which served for a door was withdrawn, and Lawontica came out, bearing in her hand an earthen pitcher she wished to fill at the spring.

Mrs. Pike, who later in life did landscape painting, observed the details of scenery, and the result displays itself in her

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Ibid., p. 198.
descriptions. They are, however, written in the typical feminine style of the period.

The portrayal of the customs and habits of the Delawares which Mrs. Pike learned from a history of the Moravian missions\textsuperscript{76} gives some color to the story. The manner of Indian courtship, the great tribal reverence for the chiefs and princesses and the superstitious beliefs of the Indians enter into her account of the tribe.

Along with the historical background of the novel, Mrs. Pike presents portraits of Washington, the dignified, aristocratic, and capable leader, and Lee, the jealous, personally unattractive, and treacherous general. One is led to understand from Mrs. Pike's works that she was a rapid and wide reader. She seems to have adequate knowledge of the period and of the region in which the novel \textit{Agnes} is set.

The one other piece of writing of Mary Hayden Green Pike which is extant is a poem entitled "John Brown in Prison."\textsuperscript{77}

This poem, in the \textbf{Washington County Scrap Book} in possession of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, is a newspaper clipping with no date and no source. The raid on Harper's Ferry took place in October, 1859, and Brown was hanged December 2, 1859. The poem may have been written about this time, or later

\textsuperscript{76} \textit{Ibid.}, note at the end of the novel.

\textsuperscript{77} See appendix.
after the war, when reflective Northerners and Southerners thought of the man who had "talked in a mysterious manner of having been appointed by Heaven, a Moses, to lead the slaves out of bondage."78

The words of the poem, spoken by John Brown, are of a prophetic nature, implying that the heroic leader felt that his death would bring about the union of negroes to revolt against the injustice of their position, aided by the might of anti-slavery sympathizers. Some abolitionists felt that the hand of God directed them in their actions to free the slaves. Even Mrs. Stowe visualized herself as "God's amanuensis in a holy war."79

Many Southerners, however, professed to believe that negroes were better off as slaves than as free men. The pro-slavery writer Dr. Nehemiah Adams used Uncle Tom as a good example of the advantages of slavery, saying that a system which could produce such a man out of a slave of the African race was not an unmixed evil.80 To him Mrs. Pike and John Brown might have replied, concerning Uncle Tom, "He is that way in spite of slavery and not because of it."


80 Brown, op. cit., p. 264.
Mrs. Pike's poem is spirited and vigorous, if rather rough and uneven in form and style. One can feel her enthusiasm behind the words of the poem and appreciate them for that reason. Whereas this poem has some power as antislavery propaganda, it has little value as a work of art.

That the writer of "John Brown in Prison" composed other poems, probably more for amusement than for publication, is indicated in a letter by one of Mrs. Pike's young friends:

She [Mrs. Pike] wrote some poetry in which she and my mother were rivals, and frankly (if I am not prejudiced), Mother won. 81

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81 Letter of Mrs. Albion H. Eaton, August 12, 1934.
SUMMARY

Mary Hayden Green Pike, an anti-slavery novelist of Calais, Maine, was one of the more popular writers who followed in the wake of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Deeply concerned with the moral issue of the slavery question, she visited the South, where she made a close observation of the slavery system. Confirmed in her anti-slavery views by this visit, she was further encouraged by her husband, Frederick A. Pike, a Congressman, by his friends Hamlin and Blaine, and by her brother-in-law, James S. Pike, a brilliant journalist and sometime minister to the Hague.

Mrs. Pike's novels were written in the sentimental and melodramatic style of the women writers of the 1850's. Her first novel, Ida May, published under the pseudonym of Mary Langdon, was extremely popular, and probably helped to strengthen the deep impression made by Uncle Tom's Cabin. Mrs. Stowe, while gaining prominence as the writer of the first abolitionist novel and as a master in the art of story-telling, does not eclipse Mrs. Pike as an anti-slavery enthusiast. In spite of the wide sale of Mrs. Pike's first novel, she did not lack critics in her own day. A contemporary criticism of Ida

When the novel appeared, 60,000 copies were sold in eighteen months. (Dictionary of American Biography, XIV, 597.)
May reads:

We must confess that the story of this novel has so little plausibility as to materially detract from the pleasure of its perusal. The introduction of the childish conversation in the first chapter seems to us in very bad taste.... We, however, recognize much merit in the work and wish it a wide circulation.83

Ida May's popularity was due chiefly to its theme, and Mrs. Pike, like Mrs. Stowe, did not write another novel to equal her first in selling value. Her second novel, Caste, published under the pseudonym Sydney A. Story, Jr., dealt with the problems of racial discrimination, specifically miscegenation, and was not so popular as her first. Agnes, Mrs. Pike's third and last novel, a romance set in the American Revolutionary period, was least popular of the three works, perhaps because the subject matter was less timely.

About 1870 the plates of Mrs. Pike's novels were destroyed in a fire, and she never went to the expense of having them made again. There are not many copies of her books available today, and they must have been growing scarce in 1901, when Joseph Dana Miller wrote:

"But the most remarkably circulated work in American literary history is 'Ida May' by Mrs. Mary H. Pike, of which 60,000 copies were sold in eighteen months. As this was in 1854, it is doubtful, when we reflect that our population was much less than half of what it is to-day, if the record of any subsequent book very much surpasses it."84


84 J. D. Miller, "Popular Novels That Have Been Forgotten," quoted from The Era (October, 1901) in the Literary Digest, November 16, 1901, pp. 603-604.
Miller's assertion is incorrect, since other novels surpassed *Ida May* in circulation within its own period; however, Mrs. Pike's work was one of the more popular novels of the 1850's.

Mary Hayden Green Pike should be considered in the light of the times in which she wrote. Her style is that of other popular feminine novelists of the mid-nineteenth century. As a strong supporter of the anti-slavery cause, she deserves mention in American literary history.
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ADDENDA

Secondary Source

Rachel Virginia Reed was born at Van Buren, Maine, in 1918, and in 1928 moved to Bangor. She was graduated from Lasell Junior College, Auburndale, Massachusetts. In 1943 she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Rochester. During the two following years she taught in secondary schools in Maine. In 1945 she began graduate work in the field of English at the University of Maine, and in the Spring of 1946 was a graduate assistant in the Department of English. During the Summer of 1946 she was married to Lloyd W. Griffin. Both Mr. and Mrs. Griffin received appointments as English instructors at the University for the year 1946-47. At the close of the fall semester Mrs. Griffin resigned her instructorship and continued work on her thesis, which she completed in July, 1947.
APPENDIX

JOHN BROWN IN PRISON*

By Mrs. Fred. A. Pike

"I thought him a monomaniac because he talked in a mysterious way of having been appointed by Heaven, a Moses, to lead the slaves out of bondage."—A writer to the N. Y. Tribune.

Defeat or victory! What is it?
For my soul is dark,
And it heareth through the midnight,
Only slavery's ban-dogs bark.
Hears alone the Southern pouring
Curses o'er my children's grave
And the false and frantic protest,
Of the cowering, trembling slave.

Can I tremble? Can I falter?
Such a man as I--
Who for years have seen the watch sign
Flaming in the Southern sky?
Who have heard the spirit whisper
Through the solemn night to me,
"Go--the Red Sea shall be opened--
Thou shalt set thy brethren free."

Was it then a lying vision?
Did I do a wrong,
When I sought to aid the helpless--
Arm the weak against the strong.
Saith the word that never faileth,
"Aiding these, thou'rt aiding me."
Oh my Lord! whose death was victory!
Humbly thus I follow Thee.

When the Jewish host beleaguered,
Jericho's old town,
Sword in hand, 'twas by their shouting,
That the walls fell down.
Emblem of the mighty power
Given to the spoken work [sic],
That the souls enclosed in error,
May be reached without the sword.

Living, I had been a unit,
    Dying, men shall see
What a strong and countless army
    Wait to set the bondmen free.
Never could my voice th'oppressor,
    From his fatal slumber wake--
O'er my grave the shout of thousands,
    Shall the guilty silence break.

Lo! I see the vision brightens--
    Clearer grows the sign--
And the "Red Sea" is a river,
    Red with blood that once was mine.
They, who perished, I who follow,
    'Neath that Jordan's swelling wave,
Through defeat accept our victory--
    Gain our triumph through the grave.