

A Trip to England: Vicarious Experience of *Our Old Home*

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Abstract – I visited Liverpool and London late March, 2013. As I had been interested in the influence of Nathaniel Hawthorne's stay in Europe including his service as US consul in Liverpool from 1853 to 57 upon his literary works, I was very glad to achieve my wish of looking at the English scenery represented in *Our Old Home* with my own eyes, although it was quite limited in terms of time and place. I report my impressions and thoughts, referring to several passages from *Our Old Home* and other writings, after I vicariously experienced his forefathers' country, England, which a self-possessed observer, Hawthorne, witnessed over 150 years ago.

1

In 1620, it took the Mayflower with 102 Puritan passengers aboard about two months to cross the Atlantic Ocean, from Plymouth to Cape Cod. In 1853, it took Nathaniel Hawthorne less than a fortnight to sail from Boston to Liverpool in a steamer, in order to take office as U.S. consul. It is nearly 6,000 kilometers between the two ports. In 2013, it took me only about twelve hours to fly over the Eurasian Continent, from Haneda to Heathrow. To say nothing of the speed of an airplane, I was also impressed by the big difference between the two ages of the Pilgrim Fathers and Hawthorne, with a dramatic development of technology by the Industrial Revolution. Incidentally, it was in 1853 and 1854 that Mathew C. Perry, a commodore of the U.S. Navy, came to Japan twice, leading the East India Squadron, in pursuit of opening the door of Japan. The event displayed the overwhelming Western technology to the Japanese nation. It eventually led to the beginning of Meiji Era. Perry visited Hawthorne at the consulate in Liverpool on the way back home, on 25 December 1854. Perry wanted Hawthorne to help him "prepare his notes and materials for the publication of an account of his voyage"(OOH147), but, knowing that he was very busy, just asked him to recommend someone suitable for the job. In spite of Hawthorne's suggestion, however, Perry eventually published *Narrative of the Expedition of an American Squadron to the China Seas and Japan* in 1856, with the help of Francis Lister Hawks (1798 – 1866). In this way, I was impressed by the fact that Hawthorne served as consul in Liverpool and that he also met Mathew C. Perry, who was one of the best known Americans in Japan, in that town. It was for this reason that I chose Liverpool as the first place to visit in England this time.

2

After a long flight from Japan, I arrived at the Heathrow Airport at around 13:00 local time. It was about three hours late because the departure time was also the same hours late. I was in a hurry for the station of the Heathrow Express, which connects the airport and the Paddington Station. On the way I saw, for the first time, a row of buildings in England along the railway tracks out of the train window. The scenery made me realize that I had actually arrived in England. It was quite different from, for example, when I saw a row of buildings from the train window on the way from Haneda to the central

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Tokyo. The latter was modern and clean but seemed cold and steely. This difference of impressions was also felt when I visited Boston in 2012. In this respect, it seems to me that London and Boston have something in common with each other.

As soon as I got to the Paddington Station, I hurried to the Euston Station, where the train for Liverpool departs. It was only about two-hour-ride to Liverpool. I once heard that in the past the trains in England had not been so punctual, but the train I took was generally punctual and very fast. At the same time, I was a little surprised when I found a passage in *Our Old Home* Hawthorne wrote about Liverpool, saying, “London is only five hours off by the fast train.”(40) It was over 150 years ago! I remember seeing at Liverpool Museum an image of some motion picture where a restored early locomotive was running very fast. The ride gave me a very good chance to look at the characteristic topography of England. After coming out of the urban area, I could see a wide range of gentry rolling hills. Although I went through some cities, I didn’t see so many houses and buildings between the cities but mostly wide clear hilly land. I even could not see woodlands. According to the national statistics about the land use in the United Kingdom, agriculture accounts for 75 percent while forestry 13 percent. Grassland including grazing accounts for over 40 percent. These figures seem to ensure the truth of my impressions about what I saw. By contrast, in Japan, forestry accounts for almost 70 percent.

On the next day when I arrived in Liverpool, I first visited the building which had once been used as the U.S. consulate. It took me some time to find it. I asked its location at the information center downtown. I found it located along the Paradise Street, which is now in the popular shopping district. I sought for an image of a golden eagle, the symbol of the United States, on the front of the building. Finally I found the building, but somehow the eagle did not exist on the projected pedestal. I noticed a metal plate on the wall near the entrance, which showed that the building used to be the U.S. consulate in Liverpool. The ground floor seemed to be occupied by a shop, where furnishings were displayed. The consulate was founded in 1790 as the first overseas U.S. consulate. Hawthorne served from 1853 to 1857 during the Pierce administration. It was a kind of reward for their friendship because Hawthorne wrote a his biography for his presidential election, to which Pierce owed his victory not a little. However, Hawthorne did not seem to enjoy his job as he didn’t do so when he worked for the custom house in Boston and Salem. He even calls his position “the imprisonment.”(OOH39) He describes the people he dealt with at the consulate and says that he felt sympathies for those who asked for the passage to the United States because of oppression in each their home country. At the same time, he says, “As for my countrymen, I grew better acquainted with many of our national characteristics, during those four years, than in all my preceding life.”(OOH10) He picks up one example of an American man who resembles “Israel Potter” in the novel of the same title written by Herman Melville (1819-91) and says as follows:

The cause of this peculiar insanity lies deep in the Anglo-American heart. After all these bloody wars and vindictive animosities, we have still an unspeakable yearning towards England. When our forefathers left the old home, they pulled up many of their roots, but trailed along with them others, which were never snapt asunder by the tug of such a lengthening distance, nor have been torn out of the original soil by the violence of subsequent struggles, nor severed by the edge of the sword. Even so late as these days, they remain entangled with our heart-strings, and might often have influenced our national course like the tiller-ropes of a ship, if the rough gripe of England had been capable of managing so sensitive a kind of machinery.(OOH18-19)

He goes on illustrating such Americans as examples of what he calls “diseased American appetite for English soil.”(OOH20) Furthermore he also refers to the abuse among the crew on American ships, especially that of ship’s captain against ordinary crewmembers including English. According to his

description, there seems to have been a dispute between the two governments. He seems to have thought of the problem as “an inevitable calamity.”(OHH33) As for this problem, Melville also dealt with it in his work, *White-Jacket* (1850). Anyway, although he was bothered by various problems relating with his job in Liverpool, he might always have had a strong yearning towards England when he visited various parts of the country. He actually says, “I was often conscious of a fervent hereditary attachment on the native soil of our forefathers, and felt it to be our own Old Home.”(OOH40)

What was the most impressive to me in Liverpool was a lot of old docks along the River Mersey. The U.S. consulate is near the riverside, five-minute walk. I saw several old ships at one of the dock. They seemed to be preserved for tourism, and I imagined that a lot of ships had been moored and many people and carriages had been moving around while Hawthorne was staying there. I learned the prosperity of Liverpool as the world’s trade center in the nineteenth century at the Museum of Liverpool. Even New York was compared to Liverpool in those days. The population was about 400,000 at that time and it is not so different from that of today. Liverpool was probably equivalent financially even to London. In that sense, it could be said that it was quite fortunate and honorable for Hawthorne to have been appointed as U.S. consul of the city. It is interesting, however, that he himself was quite discontent with his job as mentioned before. After retiring from the job, he traveled to the European Continent with his wife and children for a few years.

3

After staying in Liverpool two nights, I returned to London. I stayed at a hotel near the Paddington Station because it had a good access to the airport. In order to move around the central London, I made a use of the underground. It was very convenient and inexpensive compared with bus and taxi. As the oldest underground railway in the world, the Metropolitan Railway opened in 1863, just 150 years ago, between Paddington and Farringdon, which now forms part of the Circle Line. It was three years after Hawthorne returned to the United States. It could have been under construction during his stay. I am still moved by emotion when I remember that I took the underground from the Paddington Station to the Euston Square Station, the second station from the Farringdon Station. It is said that steam locomotives were used for the underground in its early stage until electric trains were first introduced in 1890 and the electrification was completed in the early 20th century. Unfortunately Hawthorne could not see the underground, but he saw the Thames Tunnel. As he says, the Thames Tunnel started to be constructed “[A]bout midway between Greenwich and London Bridge”(OOH245) in the early 19th century. With technical and financial difficulties, however, it was finally completed and opened to the public in 1843. It had first been planned for the use of horse-drawn carriages as well as pedestrians, but at first the plan for carriages did not come true because of its cost. It was in 1869 that the first train ran through the tunnel after it was purchased by the East London Railway Company. Hawthorne went through the tunnel from the Wapping side to the Rotherhithe side while he was going up the Thames River on a steam boat. He described the tunnel quite negatively in his *Our Old Home*, saying, “It indicates the locality of one of those prodigious practical blunders that would supply John Bull with a topic of inexhaustible ridicule, if his cousin Jonathan had committed them, but of which he himself perpetrates ten to our one in the mere wantonness of wealth that lacks better employment”(245-6). In the corridor of the tunnel, there seemed to be shops and stalls where women sell goods. Even robbers were said to be hiding in the dark corners. Hawthorne also ridicules and says, “The Englishman has burrowed under the bed of his great river, and set ships of two or three thousand tons a-rolling over his head, only to provide new sites for a few old women to sell cakes and ginger-beer!”(OOH247). He even imagines an unusual use of the tunnel and says,

It would be delightful to clap up all the enemies of our peace and union in the dark together, and there let them abide, listening to the monotonous roll of the river above their heads, or perhaps in a state of miraculously suspended animation, until – be it after months, years, or centuries – when the turmoil shall be all over, the Wrong washed away in blood, (since that must needs be the cleansing fluid,) and the Right firmly rooted in the soil which that blood will have enriched, they might crawl forth again and catch a single glimpse at their redeemed country, and feel it to be a better land than they deserve, and die!(OOH250-1)

It seems that he is hinting at the American Civil War, which broke out in 1861 soon after he came home from England. He was worried about the division and disorder of his native country. He might not have been able to forget the chaotic situation of his country for a moment even while staying in England.

When I first saw the River Thames, I was impressed by its larger breadth and more abundant water than I had expected. It has enough size for a rather big ship to sail. Actually, the retired HMS Belfast is moored on the river between Tower Bridge and London Bridge. It is a cruiser which is more than ten thousand tons and served at the World War II and the Korean War. It did not look so big compared with the river. Hawthorn said that the water was dirty and I agreed with him. It could not with the best will in the world be described as “clean,” although it is now probably much cleaner than it was in Hawthorne’s times. It is said that floods and poisonous gases like methane and hydrogen sulfide impeded the construction of the Thames Tunnel. In those days London had the largest population of all cities in the world and enjoyed the economic prosperity after the Industrial Revolution, so it can be easily imagined that in the 19th century the River Thames was quite polluted. I could not help thinking of such historical background while looking at the river.

As Hawthorne took a steamboat and sailed up the River Thames after going through the Thames Tunnel, he saw the Tower of London. I also saw the tower after visiting Greenwich on the third day in London. It is called the “Tower” but it looked like a big fortress composed of walls, towers and buildings. I tried to take a photo covering its whole form but in vain. I was too close to the establishment to do so. Hawthorne refers to the White Tower and the Traitor’s Gate and says, “An Englishman cares nothing about the Tower, which to us is a haunted castle in dream-land.”(OOH253) Actually, the Tower of London was established at the Norman Conquest, nearly a thousand years ago, and about eight hundred years before Hawthorn’s visit. It symbolizes the long history and tradition of England, which seems to have been the object of his longing as an author. He described it in the preface of *The Marble Faun*, saying, “No author, without a trial, can conceive of the difficulty of writing a romance about a country where there is no shadow, no antiquity, no mystery, no picturesque and gloomy wrong, nor anything but a common-place prosperity, in broad and simple daylight, as is happily the case with my dear native land.”(854) That is, all that Hawthorne thought didn’t exist in the United States did exist in England. However, England was changing as well as the United States. Hawthorne seems to have felt it as he was traveling through London by steamer. He happened to see a large and beautiful barge where many footmen in gorgeous livery attended, which caused him to think of England’s old times. He thought of it as some ceremony or festival and says, “...the sight had its value in bringing vividly before me the grand old times, when the sovereign and nobles were accustomed to use the Thames as the high street of the metropolis and join in pompous processions upon it.”(OOH254) He probably imagined the times before the Industrial Revolution, which brought to Britain breaking up of classes and equalization of society as well as industrialization. Feeling nostalgia for good old days, Hawthorne recognizes the change of society and says, “...thus life gets more monotonous in hue from age to age, and appears to seize every opportunity to strip off a bit of its gold lace among the wealthier classes, and to make itself descent in the lower ones.”(OOH254) Compared with England, which was in those days the most

advanced industrial country in the world, the United States was still rather an agricultural country before the Civil War. Therefore he could probably recognize the change of his old home much stronger than English natives.

Hawthorne went on sailing up the River Thames passing the Temple Church, the Somerset House, and the new Houses of Parliament, which were still under construction after the destruction by the great fire in 1834. He got off the steamer at Chelsea and visited the Royal Hospital Chelsea, what he called Chelsea Hospital. It was founded by Charles II in 1682 as “a home for aged and infirm soldiers of the British army (OOH255) and was designed by Christopher Wren (1632-1723), a famous British architect who also designed the St. Paul’s Cathedral. Unfortunately I could not visit this hospital but Hawthorne refers to it and I found it interesting. He was invited by some pensioners to enter the hospital and went in the Chapel. There he saw “the long ranges of dusty and tattered banners,” which were “trophies of battles fought and won in every quarter of the world.”(OOH256) They included the flags of the United States and the pensioner who invited him in the Chapel showed them proudly to him without knowing that he was an American citizen. He says, “It is a good method of teaching a man how imperfectly cosmopolitan he is, to show him his country’s flag occupying a position of dishonour in a foreign land.”(OOH257) That is, Hawthorne, who were usually calm, was unusually a little stirred up by patriotism then. However, he thinks it necessary to get over such patriotism accompanied by hostility against others and says, “I heartily wish that every trophy of victory might crumble away, and that every reminiscence or tradition of a hero, from the beginning of the world to this day, could pass out of all men’s memories at once and forever.”(OOH257) In this way, it could be said that he is a pacifist. In a sketch titled “Chiefly about War-matters. By a Peaceable Man.” on the American Civil War, he says, “We woo the South ‘as the lion woos his bribe’; it is a rough courtship, but perhaps Love, and a quiet household, may come of it at last.”(442) This sketch was published in 1862, soon after he went back to the United States from England. He seemed to be deeply worried about the domestic warfare of his home country, hoping that the problems would be solved peacefully.

On the second day of my stay in London, I saw the Houses of Parliament from the Westminster Bridge. After hearing the Big Ben ringing, I hurried to the Westminster Abbey, which I had been looking forward to visiting. That was partly because Hawthorne described it in detail in *Our Old Home* and partly because I was interested in ecclesiastical architecture. The Westminster abbey is located in the City of Westminster, one of the 32 London Boroughs and the political center of Britain. The borough includes the Buckingham Place, the Houses of Parliament, the Prime Minister’s Official Residence, and various government offices. In London, I was very impressed by many edifices, and the Westminster Abbey, above all, impressed me the most. It is certainly a magnificent building of Gothic architecture, but it is the history itself of the British kingdom as well. The coronation and funeral of successive kings and queens have been held there. It is still fresh in our memory that Prince William and Catherine Middleton had a wedding ceremony at this abbey in 2011. On a Sunday afternoon, Hawthorne visited the Westminster Abbey and described it at length in “Up the Thames” in *Our Old Home*. Reading Hawthorne’s description of it, I can vividly remember each scene which I saw. He actually says, “In truth, I believe that the chief delight and advantage of this kind of literature is not for any real information that it supplies to untravelled people, but for reviving the recollections and re-awakening the emotions of persons already acquainted the scenes described.”(259) I think it is quite true.

Before entering the church, I took pictures of the façade. It was so big and magnificent with a typical Gothic style. I was especially impressed by the large rose window and flying buttresses. The admission fee was a little expensive but great many tourists were entering in lines. Judging from the languages they spoke, they seemed to come from all around the world. At the entrance hall they were lending a gadget of a recorded guidance which looked like a big cellphone. I first thought of borrowing the English

version but gave up the idea because of my poor listening ability, so I borrowed the Japanese one. It was a right judgment; the guidance was so long and explanatory in detail that I would have had much difficulty in understanding it in English. There was no tranquility which I thought was fit for such a solemn atmosphere, but that might have been extravagant hopes. The structure looked so spacious from inside as well as from outside. The high ceiling, which is a typical characteristic of Gothic architecture, seemed to cause the effect. The triangular arches and the series of tall columns between the nave and the aisles were also impressive. The vertically oriented windows had beautiful stained glass which represented saints and stories of the Bible. A preacher delivered a short speech to the visitors around her. She looked like a priest in the Anglican Church. The recorded guidance said that the Westminster Abbey was not only a popular tourist spot but also a church in active service and a lot of people visited for worship as well, which seemed to give it a very solemn atmosphere. Hawthorne says, "It was sweet to feel its venerable quietude, its long enduring peace, and yet to observe how kindly and even cheerfully it received the sunshine of today, which fell from the great windows into the fretted aisles and arches that laid aside somewhat of their aged gloom to welcome it." (OOH260) As he says, the inside of the church was lighter than I had expected, though it was not so clear day. Unfortunately I don't remember if there were artificial lights in the church, but it was true that the natural sunlight went in through a lot of large windows. The Westminster Abbey started as a Benedictine monastery in the tenth century and Edward the Confessor rebuilt the Saint Peter's Abbey in the Norman Romanesque Style in the eleventh century. Soon after that, the coronation of William the Conqueror was held in 1066. The present church was first built by Henry III in Anglo-French Gothic style in the thirteenth century. In the eighteenth century, the western towers were constructed as they are now. There seems to have been minor restorations so far, but the abbey has since been almost the same appearance as what I saw. Hawthorne noticed not only the graveness from the religious atmosphere but also the history and says, "The inscriptions and devices on the walls are rich with evidences of the fluctuating tastes, fashions, manners, opinions, prejudices, follies, wisdoms of the Past, and thus they combine into a more truthful memorial of their dead times than any individual epitaph-maker ever meant to write." (OOH265)

Hawthorne describes the Poet's Corner in a rather favorable way, although he sometimes adopts rather ruthless expressions while describing Englishmen and English manners and customs. Actually, referring to the marble statues in the Westminster Abbey, he says as follows, taking up sculptures of several Englishmen such as William Wilberforce (1759-1839), an English politician;

The sculptor should give permanence to the figure of a great man in his mood of broad and grand composure which would obliterate all mean peculiarities; for, if the original were unaccustomed to such a mood, or if his features were incapable of assuming the guise, it seems questionable whether he could really have been entitled to a marble immortality. In point of fact, however, the English face and form are seldom statuesque, however illustrious the individual. (OOH263-4)

This is also interesting in a way of Hawthorne's artistical view about marble sculpture. However, the harshness and frankness of his views are softened in the description of the Poet's Corner. It is probably because of a kind of sympathy as a person of the same line. This tendency can be seen in his other literary works like "The Artist of the Beautiful." The following passage is very contrastive to what was quoted above;

Enjoying a humble intimacy – and how much of my life had else been a dreary solitude! – with many of its inhabitants, I could not feel myself a stranger here. It was delightful to be among them. There was a genial awe, mingled with a sense of kind and friendly presences about me; ... A poet's ghost is the only

one that survives for his fellow-mortals, after his bones are in the dust – and he not ghostly, but cherishing many hearts with his own warmth in the chilliest atmosphere of life. What other fame is worth aspiring for! Or, let me speak it more boldly, what other long-enduring fame can exist! (266-7)

He refers to Ben Jonson, Samuel Butler, John Milton, and Thomas Gray. At the same time, he feels that even such literary giants are less respected than other greater personages. He says, “At best, only a little portion of the Abbey is dedicated to poets, literary men, musical composers, and others of the gentle artist-breed, and even into that small nook of sanctity, men of other pursuits have thought it decent to intrude themselves.”(OOH269) It was true that the space of the Poet’s Corner was not so large, but I also enjoyed finding the names of many great authors. Among them did I find the name of George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), a great English composer coming from Germany, whose music I like very much. His statue was found high on the wall. It represented a plump body of a middle-aged man. The recorded guidance said that it took after the person himself. Hawthorne did not refer to him but I was interested in his statue and remembered *Water Music* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks*. When I visited the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, I saw a replica of a barge which King George I was on board with Handel on the River Thames in 1717. *The Water Music* was played at the royal excursion at least more than three times because the king was so pleased with it. It might have been the same kind of barge that Hawthorne saw at the Thames. I imagined such views while looking at the statue of Handel in the Poet’s Corner. I also found myself stamping on the name of Geoffrey Chaucer on the floor. It reminded me of *the Canterbury Tales*.

At the end of “Up the Thames,” Hawthorne refers to Leigh Hunt (1784-1859), an English critic and poet. He was born and raised in England but his parents had lived in America. His father was an English clergyman and his mother was a Quaker in Pennsylvania. They were settled in England escaping from the War of Independence because they were on the royalist side. Hawthorne met him in London at least twice in 1855 and 1859. He describes this gentleman quite favorably. That’s probably partly because he is a man of letters and partly because he is related to Americans both in his genealogy and in his characteristics. Hunt was an editor of the *Examiner*, a liberal journal which had been founded by his brother John. Some Romantic poets like Keats and Shelley won notice in the world through the journal. He was arrested and imprisoned for attacking in the journal the future King George IV as the Prince Regent in 1813. About the interview with him, Hawthorne says, “I have met no Englishman whose manners seemed to me so agreeable – soft, rather than polished, wholly unconventional, the natural growth of a kindly and sensitive disposition without any reference to rule, or else obedient to some rule so subtle that the nicest observer could not detect the application of it.”(OOH272) He also says, “There was not an English trait in him from head to foot, morally, intellectually, or physically. Beef, ale, or stout, brandy, or port-wine, entered not at all into his composition.”(OOH273) He once denies the American genealogy as the cause of Hunt’s amiable character, but just after that he says as followed;

“But the kind of excellence that distinguished him – his fineness, subtlety, and grace – was that which the richest cultivation has heretofore tended to develop in the happier examples of American genius, and which (though I say it a little reluctantly) is perhaps what our future intellectual advancement may make general among us. His person, at all events, was thoroughly American, and of the best type, as were likewise his manners; for we are the best as well as the worst-mannered people in the world.”(OOH273-4)

It seems to be not unnatural that Hawthorne as a romance writer was attracted by a literary man who was half American and liberal and sympathetic to Romantic poets. At the same time, it can be said that

those representations above show Hawthorne's image of Englishman as a whole. He might have been influenced by patriotism, but it also might be that he was more critical about Englishmen than about other peoples all the more because they were very close to each other in many ways. Admiration and criticism of England and its culture probably coexisted in Hawthorne's mind.

4

I visited Greenwich on the third day in London because Hawthorne also went there and wrote about it in "A London Suburb" in *Our Old Home*. Hawthorne probably took a steamer but I took a train which was called the Docklands Light Railway. The train passed an area called Docklands, where a lot of modern tall buildings stood. It is said to have been a deserted area with closed old docks along the Thames. It was redeveloped in the late twentieth century and the new railroad was constructed to connect the Docklands and the central London. This area used to be a part of the Port of London, one of the largest ports in the world. A lot of ships must have come in and out when Hawthorne visited the place.

I arrived at the Cutty Sark Station and walked towards the River Thames. Some tall masts came into my sight and I found it the Cutty Sark, a famous tea clipper which served in the late nineteenth century. It was a large sailing ship, which carried tea from China and wool from Australia. Now the ship was a museum and the lower half of the hull was covered with glass. After stopping at the information center near the ship, I went to the Old Royal Naval College, which Hawthorne referred as Greenwich Hospital. Actually, it was originally built as the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich in the early eighteenth century and was closed in 1869. That means it still served as a hospital when Hawthorne visited. It is included in the Maritime Greenwich, a World Heritage Site. The Old Royal Naval College is a magnificent Gothic building which was designed by Christopher Wren. When I stood on the hilltop of the Old Royal Observatory, it commanded the beautiful scenery including the "Greenwich Hospital" and its surroundings with the River Thames and the downtown as the background. Hawthorne also might have enjoyed the wonderful view from the same point. He says as follows;

But Greenwich, too, is beautiful – a spot where the art of man has conspired with Nature, as if he and the great mother had taken counsel together how to make a pleasant scene, and the longest liver of the two had faithfully carried out their mutual design. It has likewise an additional charm of its own, because, to all appearance, it is the people's property and playground in a much more genuine way than the aristocratic resorts in closer vicinity to the metropolis. It affords one of the instances in which the monarch's property is actually the people's, and shows how much more natural is their relation to the sovereign than to the nobility, which pretends to hold the intervening space between the two; for a nobleman makes a paradise only for himself, and fills it with his own pomp and pride; whereas the people are sooner or later the legitimate inheritors of whatever beauty kings and queens create, as now of Greenwich Park.(OOH223-4)

Actually, the Greenwich Park is among the eight Royal Parks in London, including the Hyde Park. They are open to the public now, but they used to be royal hunting grounds. It is said that the Greenwich Park was first made open to the public in the eighteenth century, so Hawthorne might have enjoyed taking a walk there. As Hawthorne says, the park seems to me a very good place where the citizens and tourists can relax and enjoy themselves.

Returning to the Old Royal Naval College, Hawthorne referred to the Painted Hall, one of the main features of the building. I think the signboard said that the hall had been used as a dinning room for patients when it was a hospital. I also visited it and saw a lot of tables and large pictures of baroque

style which decorated the walls and the ceiling. They were painted by James Thornhill (1675-1734), to whom Hawthorne refers in "A London Suburb." I was impressed by the large room with the high ceiling and magnificent pictures. Hawthorne also refers to the portraits of heroes, especially that of Horatio Nelson (1758-1805), one of the most notable heroes of England. He is the most famous for his victory and death at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Unfortunately, however, I didn't see his portrait there. He says, "An ordinary Englishman is the healthiest and wholesomest of human beings; an extraordinary one is almost always, in one way or another, a sick man. It was so with Lord Nelson." (OOH232) Hawthorne seems to have been more interested in the common people than the British heroes. He happened to witness "Greenwich Fair" on Easter taking place and describes it in detail. What he saw was mainly the crowd of people in lower classes and the festival was what he called "the idle and disreputable part of London." (OOH234) He also describes the people at the festival as "a confusion of unwashed and shabbily dressed people, intermixed with some smarter figures, but, on the whole, presenting a mobbish appearance such as we never see in our own country." (OOH234-5) These descriptions might have offended quite a few English readers, I imagine, but, at the same time, I suppose what he says reflects the real situation of London in those days seen from the American point of view. He says, "The distinction of ranks is so marked, that the English cottage-damsel holds a position somewhat analogous to that of the negro girl in our southern states." (OOH241) This seems to show the situation of the social inequality in England in the mid nineteenth century. In England, which had been originally a class society, the disparities among classes including those between laborers and capitalists might have gotten larger through the Industrial Revolution. It is symbolic that those who belong to the lowest part of the society are here compared to the black slave, which was a source of the crisis of his native country.

Hawthorne also describes English people as a whole from the moral point of view. It has a definite contrast to the descriptions of the Americans. He says, "They adhere closer to the original simplicity in which mankind was created, than we ourselves do; they love, quarrel, laugh, cry, and turn their actual selves inside out, with greater freedom than any class of Americans would consider decorous." (OOH224-5) He goes on to say about the Greenwich Fair, calling it "the Borghese gardens...on a Sunday or Saint's day," "I am not ashamed to say, it a little disturbed whatever grimy ghost of Puritanic strictness might be lingering in the somber depths of a New England heart, among severe and sunless remembrances of the Sabbaths of childhood, and pangs of remorse for ill-gotten lessons in the catechism, and for erratic fantasies or hardly suppressed laughter in the middle of long sermons." (OOH225) Hawthorne feels a kind of moral confusion among the English public, especially in the lower classes, but at the same time he considers it favorably. He refers to a strange game among young men and women called "Kissing in the Ring," and he says about the young women, "It put the spectator in good humor to look at them, because there was still something of the old Arcadian, the secure freedom of the antique age, in their way of surrendering their lips to strangers as if there were no evil or impurity in the world." (OOH240) When I visited Greenwich, I could not encounter such a festive occasion. But I saw a lot of tourists here and there, at the Old Royal Naval College, the National Maritime Museum, and the Old Royal Observatory. I found not only English tourists but also tourists all over the world all enjoying looking around those famous sites. I even saw a lot of Japanese tourists as I did at other famous spots. I was only one of such a great number of tourists, but I was very glad to see many sites some of which were almost the same as what Hawthorne saw over 150 years ago.

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Fig. 1. Former US Consulate, Liverpool. Personal photograph by author. ditto. 25 Mar. 2013.



Fig. 2. An old dock, Liverpool. 25 Mar. 2013.



Fig. 4. North Façade of Westminster Abbey, Westminster, London. 27 Mar. 2013.



Fig. 3. Old Royal Naval College and Downtown seen from Old Royal Observatory, Greenwich, London. 28 Mar. 2013.