

A micro-ebook reformatted from

Symbiosis: a Journal of Anglo-American Literary Relations

Volume 4.1

Susan Reilly

**‘A Nobler Fall of Ground’:
Nation and Narration in
*Pride and Prejudice***

<http://www.humanities-ebooks.co.uk>

FOR GUIDANCE ON USE OF THIS EBOOK PLEASE SCROLL TO PAGE 2

PUBLICATION DATA

© Symbiosis 2000, 2007 all rights reserved

The Author has asserted her right to be identified as the author of this Work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published in SYMBIOSIS Volume 4.1 April 2000, pp.19–34

2nd electronic edition published in 2007 by Humanities-Ebooks LLP

<http://www.humanities-ebooks.co.uk>

Tirril Hall, Tirril, Penrith CA10 2JE

Essays published in Symbiosis are subsequently digitized for the benefit of the author (80%) and the Journal (20%)

READING OPTIONS

To use the toolbar this Ebook should be read in default view.

To navigate use the hyperlinked 'Bookmarks' or thumbnails at the left of the screen.

To search, click on the binocular symbol in the toolbar.

Use <CTRL+L> to enlarge the page to full screen.

LICENCE AND PERMISSIONS

This ebook is licensed for reading on a particular computer.

The original purchaser may license the same work for a second computer by applying to support@humanities-ebooks.co.uk with proof of purchase.

It is permissible to print a watermarked copy of the book for your own use.

ISSN: 1362-7902

A cumulative index of Symbiosis essays and reviews is online at

<http://www.symbiosisonline.org.uk>

Susan Reilly

‘A Nobler Fall of Ground’: Nation and Narration in *Pride and Prejudice*

Elizabeth, as they drove along, watched for the first appearance of Pemberley Woods with some perturbation; and when at length they turned in at the lodge, her spirits were in a high flutter. The park was very large, and contained great variety of ground. They entered it at one of its lowest points, and drove for some time through a beautiful wood, stretching over a wide extent. Elizabeth’s mind was too full for conversation, but she saw and admired every remarkable spot and point of view. They gradually ascended for half a mile, and then found themselves at the top of a considerable eminence, where the woods ceased, and the eye was instantly caught by Pemberley House, situated on the opposite side of a valley, into which the road with some abruptness wound. It was a large, handsome, stone building, standing well on rising ground.

—*Pride and Prejudice*, Volume III, Chapter I.¹

Pemberley Woods is a likely enough spot from which to explore Austen’s views on English nationalism and domestic tourism. It stands perhaps as one of her most univocal representations of Englishness and gentrified taste. Yet it may seem a strange landing from which to launch a survey of the author’s views on America. Austen’s descriptions of the landscape on which Pemberley House is situated, and her narrative style in the novel in which it makes its appearance, however, take on new meaning when viewed in the light of the North American topographical narrative, a genre which during the last decades of the eighteenth century put forward enticing descriptions of a wilderness frontier and brave new world that lured

¹ All Quotations from *Pride and Prejudice* are taken from the Norton Critical edition prepared by Donald Gray, (hereinafter cited as Gray) the 1993 edition.
SUBSEQUENT REFERENCES WILL BE FOUND ON PAGES 15-18 OF THIS EBOOK AND MAY BE REACHED VIA THE NAVIGATION PANEL AT THE LEFT OF YOUR SCREEN