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NORTH AND SOUTH NOTES

When the novel opened, [Margaret Hale](#) was preparing for her cousin Edith's wedding to [Captain Lennox](#). Following the celebration she returned to the village of Helstone where her father was vicar. She had spent the past ten years living with her aunt and cousin and was now looking forward to the idyllic life of Helstone with her parents. This quiet genteel life in Southern England was shattered by an unexpected and unwanted proposal from Edith's brother-in-law, [Henry Lennox](#), and her father's shocking news that doubts about the Church of England led him to leave the Church and move his family to the industrial Northern town of Milton.

The three Hales relocated to the North, where [Mr. Hale](#) became a private tutor and Margaret tried to reconcile herself to her new and unlovely environs. She disliked the business and coarseness of the inhabitants and was disdainful of the prominence of business in public life. Mr. Hale's friend and pupil [Mr. Thornton](#), one of Milton's most influential and wealthiest manufacturers, garnered her particular disapproval. The two of them were at odds over capitalism and the relationship of masters and laborers. Mr. Thornton grew to love Margaret both despite and because of her pride, but she disliked him immensely. The imminent strike by Milton's working class was a point of contention; Mr. Thornton professed derision for the strikers and Margaret, while mostly ignorant of the reasons for a strike, identified with the laborers. This was due in part to her acquaintance with a Milton laborer, [Nicholas Higgins](#), and his sweet, dying daughter Bessy.

While in Milton [Mrs. Hale](#) developed a serious illness. One day Margaret went to the Thornton home to borrow a water-bed for her ailing mother and found herself amidst a roiling mass of laborers who had erupted into anger and violence over Mr. Thornton's choice to employ Irish hands because of the strike. On the doorstep of his home Margaret was roused into action, throwing her arms around him to protect him from the crowd's projectiles. He later confessed his love for her but she claimed that she was only doing what any woman would have done, and coldly refused him.

The young [Bessy Higgins](#) died from her long sickness derived from factory work. Mrs. Hale's death was also near, and she begged her daughter to call her brother Frederick home. [Frederick Hale](#) was a fugitive from England due to his assumed role in a mutiny in the Royal Navy. Frederick, risking capture, stole into Milton and visited his dying mother on her deathbed. His visit was short-lived, however, as it was too dangerous for him to remain.

Frederick's visit brought complications for Margaret. While at the train station bidding his sister goodbye, the two were noticed by Mr. Thornton, who believed Frederick to

be Margaret's secret lover. Frederick was also noticed by an old enemy who tried to accost him. He pushed the man away from him; these injuries later led to the man's death and a police inquiry of Margaret, who was noticed at the station by other Milton townspeople. Margaret lied to the inspector to protect Frederick. This falsehood caused an immense amount of guilt, especially since Mr. Thornton, a magistrate, protected Margaret by ending the police inquiry. The fact that he knew of her moral lapse and she was unable to tell him the reasons for it smote her conscience.

After his son left, Mr. Hale departed for Oxford to spend time with [Mr. Bell](#), his former tutor and Margaret's godfather. While there he passed away in his sleep. Margaret, overcome with grief, returned to her aunt's house. Her cousin and Captain Lennox had returned from living abroad and resided in the same house as well. Margaret spent time alone coming to terms with all of the tragedy she had suffered from in the past two years.

Her affection and esteem for Mr. Thornton had slowly been growing. She hoped Mr. Bell, who was Mr. Thornton's landlord, would tell Mr. Thornton about the reasons for her falsehood. This was now possible because attempts to clear Frederick's name had been abandoned; he would remain living in Spain with his new wife and his secret visit was no longer problematic.

Mr. Bell, however, also passed away from illness. Margaret inherited a great sum of money. One day Mr. Thornton came to visit as a guest of Henry Lennox. He explained that his business had been destroyed by the strike -his own decision to hire Irish hands and the instability of the market led to his final decision to sell the business he had built from scratch. He had, however, come to practice a more humanitarian way of conducting business and no longer maintained an absolute separation between master and workers. This change was symbolized by the respectful and mutually beneficial relationship between Mr. Thornton and Nicholas Higgins, who he had grudgingly hired to work at the mill after the strike's cessation.

When Margaret heard of the failure of his business and his new mode of thinking, she sympathized with him and decided to use her inheritance to help save the mill. When she told him of this, the final barriers to their love and intimacy were abandoned; they embraced and expressed their love for each other.

THEMES

1) Modernity vs Tradition

South=Traditional aristocrats. They inherited property (old money) i.e Margaret

North= Modern working middle class. They are self made. i.e John Thorn

2) Authority and Rebellion (Internal and External conflict). There is also a sense of power, e.g. Economical, Judicial, Political.

3) Feminine vs Masculine Roles (Polar Opp)

The Females are private and work as domestic where as the Males are public and work outside.

4) Special and Changing Relationships

Broken relationship-Death

Parent/Child relationship as well as employer/worker= special bond e.g Dixon and Mrs Hale.

5) Religious Allusions(misused in context)

CHARACTER LIST

- 1) **Margaret**-Main Character. Not portrayed as a Victorian lady. Protagonist. Proud. Aged 18 and very fond of parents. She lived in Helstone but now she lives with Aunt Shaw with Edith (Captain Lennox wife) in London, since the age of nine). She decides to save Mr. Thortons failing business. She likes drawing (ch3). Shed much rather take care of her parents than get married.
- 2) **Frederick Hale**- Margarets older brother. He is a fugitive in Spain,Cadiz since his involvement in Mutiny while serving under a cruel officer in the British Navy. Changed his name to Dickinson to not be recognized. He comes to Milton in ch30.
- 3) **Richard Hale**- Margaret's Father. He was a pastor but His religious doubts made him leave the church of England (pg34) . When he moved to Milton became a tutor for John. (Mr Bell helped and Mr Donkin). Mrs Hale's death causes him depression and he then passes away when he visits Mr Bell in Oxford. He really cares about Maria.
- 4) **Maria Hale**- Margarets Mom who complain about the air being too damp from the trees (ch2). She married for Love. She dies after seeing her son Fred. Maiden name- Beresford. Dies in ch30.
- 5) **Leonards**- Fredericks friend who is a sailor. He did not do mutiny and wants to turn in Fred for a reward. He was intoxicated when he saw Fred and fell to his death when trying to grab him.
- 6) **Henry Lennox**- a young lawyer (ch3) and brother to Captain Lennox. He is very intelligent and loves Margaret. He considers her to be queenly(ch3), yet she only sees him as a friend (pg30).
- 7) **Edith**- cousin of Margaret. Typical Victorian woman. She is innocent and spoiled. Not malicious and sees Margaret as a sister. Married to Captain Lennox in the beginning. She has a child-Cosmo and lives in Corfu. Margaret envies her carefree life.

- 8) **Captain Lennox**- obsessed with Edith's beauty and is concerned when time goes by.
- 9) **Mrs Shaw**- Edith's Mother. (Maria Hale's sister). She is a widow(married to a general). She did not marry for love so she thinks that she was less fortunate although she was well off.
- 10) **John Thornton**- an owner of a Local Mill and a friend of Richard Hale. Margaret Likes John but he doesn't fancy her. First meeting with Margaret was in hotel. (pg62) persistent about his mill and would rather give work to men in Ireland than give in to the laborers. (Ch XX) in chapter 22 and 24 he states that she was the only woman he'd ever love.
- 11) **Hannah Thornton**- John's Mother. Does not like Margaret because she declined the proposal. She is proud of Milton and brought her children up as single mom. Kind of likes Hale family but not M. she is jealous of M taking her son.
- 12) **Fanny Thornton**- John's younger sister.
- 13) **Nicolas Higgins**- a friend of Margaret. He has no wife but 2 daughters. Atheist.
- 14) **Bessy**- Nic's daughter who is ill and works on the Mills. Fluuf of white cotton made her ill.
- 15) **Mary**- Nic's youngest daughter.
- 16) **Boucher**- Father of 6 and is active at the strike of the factory. Commits suicide after drowning.
- 17) **Mr Bell**- An old friend of Richard Hale. Godfather of Fred and Margaret. Was Richard's tutor in Oxford. When he dies he leaves everything to Margaret.
- 18) **Dixon**- Servant of the Hale Family. Served Maria before she was married and is very devoted to her. She hates Richard because of his social status. Her favourite kid is Fred.

TIME LINE OF THE AREAS HALE'S STAYED

- 1) Chapter 1- Edith's Wedding: Harley Street.
- 2) Chapter 2- Mrs Hale was in Helstone. She did not attend the wedding. Helstone is the home in which the Hale family lived. (until chapter 4/5)
- 3) Chapter 3- Henry and Margaret are in Helstone, Margaret's Garden .
- 4) Chapter 4- news of leaving Helstone.
- 5) Chapter 5- Planning of the move
- 6) Chapter 6- The leaving of Helstone.
- 7) Chapter 6 and 7 - Helstone→London→Heston(Harrisons and mrs hale stay here)→Milton Northern;in Crampton.