Discovering autonomy and authenticity in 'North and South': Elizabeth Gaskell, John Stuart Mill, and the liberal ethic

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Author: Valerie Wainwright  
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**Main content**

Abstract:

Elizabeth Gaskell's 'North and South' represents the author's concept of individuality and society, a position similar to that held by John Stuart Mill and one of his main influences, William MacCall. Critics have read 'North and South' as the coming together of liberal and paternal discourses. This reading cannot account for the individuality that infects the characters at the end of the story. Gaskell actually portrays a conception of individuality that allows for the influence of other individuals and results in a individual self that is neither removed from society as a whole, nor totally controlled by it.

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Girlebooks Presents. North and South, by Elizabeth Gaskell. This ebook was designed and published by Girlebooks. For more ebooks by the gals, please visit: http://www.girlebooks.com. VOLUME I. All the ladies said 'Poor child!' on receiving this distressing intelligence about Edith; and the minute lap-dog in Mrs. Shaw's arms began to bark, as if excited by the burst of pity. 'Hush, Tiny! you naughty little girl! you will waken your mistress. It was only to ask Edith if she would tell Newton to bring down her shawls: perhaps you would go, Margaret dear?' 1994 Wainwright, V., 'Discovering Autonomy and Authenticity in "North and South", Elizabeth Gaskell, John Stuart Mill and the Liberal Ethic', Clio—A Journal of Literature, History and the Philosophy of History, xxiii (1994), 149–65. 1994 Waldron, J., 'Kagen on Requirements, Mill on Sanctions', Ethics, ci (1994), 310–24. 1994 West, E. G., 'Joint Supply Theory Before Mill', History of Political Economy, xxvi (1994), 267–78. 1994 Zastoupil, L., John Stuart Mill and India, Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. Recommend this journal. Email your librarian or administrator to recommend ad NORTH AND SOUTH VOLUME I On its appearance in "Household Words." this tale was obliged to conform to the conditions imposed by the requirements of a weekly publication, and likewise to confine itself within certain advertised limits, in order that faith might be kept with the public. Although these conditions were made as light as they well could be, the author found it impossible to develope the story in the manner originally intended, and, more especially,
was compelled to hurry on events with an improbable rapidity towards the close. In some degree to remedy this obvious defect, v
Available for free on Project Gutenberg. But this throws her into direct conflict with the powerful young mill-owner, John Thornton. Using
personal passions to explore deep social divisions, North and South is a great romance and one of Elizabeth Gaskell's finest works.
North and South is a skillful synthesis of Dickensian social commentary and Austenian romance. Gaskell depicts workers' strikes, the
merciless working conditions, and the bustling but harrowing rise of English industry that created enormous wealth and grinding poverty.
Her poor aren't caricatures, but hard, not always sympathetic people. John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism (1862). E-text version. Florence
Nightingale, Writings. Deirdre David, Fictions of Resolution in Three Victorian Novels: North and South, Our Mutual Friend, Daniel