The Language Of Jane Austen: A Study Of Some Aspects Of Her Vocabulary

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Abbreviations

Jane Austen's six short novels, with a volume of letters and a handful of juvenilia and fragments, have given rise to a stream of critical commentary which, starting quietly enough in her own lifetime and hardly increasing in the course of the nineteenth century, has in our own generation swollen to a mighty torrent. At times, indeed, its rushing and roaring threatens to drown the author's own voice; and it may well be wondered whether there is just cause for yet another full-length study of the modest oeuvre of this novelist, whom Ian Watt has aptly described as "the most lucid and the least"