

The Basement Room  
Explanation

(3.)

He was nearly home now. . . . . a desperate Baines.

These lines have been taken from Greene's story, The Basement Room. In these lines we get a picture of master Philip secretly viewing the character of Mr. Baines. Philip had no sleep. So he ventured to the streets. As he came to the streets, he was in the midst of life again. Shortly afterwards, he returned homewards. He stood near the shabby outpost of Pimlico. He rubbed his nose against the glass pane of the window and looked too sweetly. Just then he was surprised to see Baines seated between the ham and the cake. But the Baines he saw was different Baines from the Baines he had seen and known. The whole personality of Mrs. Baines seemed transformed into a rich and inspiring personality. He found that there was something different about Mr. Baines. His bald head and bulbous eyes seemed to impress him differently. This vision of Mr. Baines pleased him. He saw in the vision the image of a bold and buccaneering Baines. He admired those qualities of his.

The bold and buccaneering Baines satisfied his sense of heroism. He didn't cherish the dream of a coward Baines submitting lavishly to the dictates and vagaries of Mrs. Baines. Such a Baines did not appeal to his sense of heroism. So when, for the first time, saw in Baines a bold and adventurous personality, he was extremely delighted. This appreciation of Baines' personality was rather the result of a vision that he had seen. As a matter of fact, a closer view of Mr. Baines would have revealed him as a desperate man.