Oliver Goldsmith

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Introduction

- Oliver Goldsmith was one of the greatest writers of the eighteenth century.
- He was born on 10 Nov. 1728 in Ireland.
- He studied at Trinity College, Dublin.
- He settled in London in 1756.

Career

- He started his literary career as an essayist, biographer, poet, novelist and dramatist.

Contribution to English Literature

- He contributed to the Monthly Review in 1757.
- He began to publish a series of letters in the Public Ledger under the title of the Citizen of the World in 1760.
- These letters were supposed to be written by an imaginary Chinese traveller in England named Lien Chi.
- He aimed to comment on British society and manners through these letters.
- He wrote his famous novel The Vicar of Wakefield, and his popular comedy She Stoops to Conquer.

Features of his essay

- His essays describe his lovable personality, simplicity, sweetness and originality of ideas.
His art of characterization shows his minute power of observation of man and human nature.

He has expressed his thoughts in simple style.

There is clarity of his style.

There is spontaneity in his style.

An Essayist who links Eighteenth and nineteenth century

He is regarded as an essayist who bridges rationalism of the eighteenth century and the romanticism of the nineteenth century.