

# Early Career

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Hardy's education was interrupted by his work as an architect. He had wanted to attend the university and become an Anglican minister, but lack of funds and his declining interest in religion swayed Hardy away from that avocation and more toward a self-study of poetry and writing. Hardy tried his hand at writing when he was 17 and wrote for years while he was a practicing architect. His first novel manuscript, *The Poor Man and the Lady*, was rejected by several publishers, but one editor, George Meredith encouraged him, and so Hardy set out to refine his style. A second story, *Desperate Remedies* (1871), was accepted and published. His next novel, *Under the Greenwood Tree* (1872), demonstrates a more polished Hardy now coming into his own style.

