

# Literary Work

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Hardy left architecture to devote his time to his literary career. His reputation as one of England's newer novelists sustained the Hardy family from that time on. The next novel, *Far from the Maddening Crowd* (1874), introduced the Wessex area setting, which also is the setting for *Tess*. The next two novels, *The Return of the Native* (1878) and *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886), established Hardy as a formidable writer.