

How does Steele Portray the Character of the Clergyman?

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Richard Steele (1671-1729) portrays the clergyman in "The Spectator Club" as a figure of wisdom and virtue. Steele describes him as a very philosophical man with extensive general knowledge. He has good manners and a refined sense of behavior. He is a respected figure among the club members.

A Good Man with Declining Health: The clergyman is physically weak. He often falls ill and cannot take on the necessary responsibilities. As a result, he is likened to a "**chamber-counsellor**" among lawyers—someone who offers guidance and wisdom without actively engaging in the more laborious duties of the church. Although the clergyman visits the club infrequently, his presence is deeply valued by the other members. As Steele writes about the Clergyman -

for he visits us but seldom, but when he does, it adds to every man else a new enjoyment of himself.

Integrity and Authority:

Despite his physical frailty, the clergyman's integrity and moral character attract followers. Steele says,

The probity of his mind, and the integrity of his life, create him followers,

His way of speaking about divine topics commands authority. He often shares his insights without self-interest, focusing on spiritual matters. When he speaks, the other club members listen carefully, eager to hear his thoughts on religious and philosophical issues.

Outlook on Life: The clergyman's approach to his declining health is also noteworthy. Instead of lamenting his condition, he sees it as a hopeful sign that he is getting closer to the fulfillment of his spiritual desires. For this outlook on life, the club members love him even more.

In conclusion, Steele's portrayal of the clergyman emphasizes his wisdom, moral integrity, and philosophical outlook. His praiseworthy qualities make him a cherished and respected member

of the Spectator Club.

Lx Notes