Throughout his work, Trollope had a strong moral conscience and saw it as the writer's duty to convey this moral sense to the reader, in a fair and balanced way. So, although he was a moral writer, he was not dogmatic or didactic in his approach – less so than, say, Dickens, whom he lambasted as 'Mr Popular Sentiment' in his first big success, The Warden (1855).

(We include The Warden in our list of 10 Classic Victorian Novels Everyone Should Read.) (The Warden would form the first of a six-part Barsetshire series, which would continue with Barchester Towers and conclude with The Last Chronicle of Barset. Trollope's other great series of novels was another six-parter, the Palliser novels, focusing on British politics.)