Elizabeth's attractiveness was less in her physical beauty than in the liveliness of her mind and spirit. As Darcy discovers, it took knowing her better to appreciate her. When he made the "tolerable" comment, it was based on her beauty which, when compared to Jane's, was apparently lacking or not evident enough on first blush to warrant the notoriously private Darcy exerting himself. Mr. Darcy at the beginning of the book was very aware of his position in society. He was a landowner, owner of a large and grade estate that had been passed down for generations, a member of the upper social class. He strived to be the perfect gentleman with correct manners.