

CONTENTS.



I.	PAGE
FRANCES BURNEY (MADAME D'ARBLAY) (1752-1840)	1-23
Birth—Incidents of childhood—<i>Evelina</i> is commenced—Success pours in—Dr. Johnson's approbation—<i>The Wiltings</i>—<i>Cecilia</i>—First introduction to George III.—Is offered a situation at Court—Wearisome days—Mrs. Schwellenberg's frogs—Resignation—Acquaintance and marriage with M. D'Arblay—<i>Camilla</i>—Widowhood, illness, and death.	
II.	
MRS. INCHBALD (1753-1821)	24-45
Birth—Impatience of a country life—Love for the stage—Escape to London—Marriage with Mr. Inchbald—On tour in the provinces—Struggles and doubts—Widowhood—First appearance at Covent Garden—<i>The Simple Story</i>—Characters and plot—Retirement from the stage—Petty economies—Knocking about in lodgings—"Description of me"—Apathy—Interview with Madame de Staël—Illness and death.	
III.	
MADAME DE STAËL (1766-1817)	46-65
Birth and early precocity—A tornado of a girl—Opinion of	

Madame de Genlis—Marriage with Baron de Staël Holstein—
A “priestess of Apollo”—Admiration of Rousseau's works—
The terrible 2nd of September—Takes refuge at Juniper Hall—
Return to Paris—*Delphine*—Life at Coppet—*Corinne*—Visit to
Germany—*De L'Allemagne*—Marriage with M. Rocca—Lionised
in London—Returns to Paris—Visit to Queen Hortense—Illness
and Death.

IV.

MRS. BARBAULD (1743-1825) 66-81

Birth at Kibworth—An importunate wooer—Early poems—Society
at Warrington—Marriage with Mr. Barbauld—School-keeping—
Settles at Hampstead—Stoke Newington—Insanity of Mr. Bar-
bauld—Literary work—Old age and death.

V.

HANNAH MORE (1745-1833) 82-95

Birth—Early scribbling—*The Search after Happiness*—Engage-
ment to Mr. Turner—Visit to London—*Sir Eldred of the Bower*—
London gaieties—*Percy*—Death of Garrick—Cowslip Green—
Work at Cheddar—*Thoughts on the Manners of the Great*—Bar-
ley Wood—Little Tom Macaulay—*Cælebs*—*The Shepherd of Salis-
bury Plain*—Removes to Clifton—Death.

VI.

LADY ANNE BARNARD (1750-1825) 96-109

Scotch songstresses—The Lindsays—Life at Balcarres Castle—
Lady Margaret's marriage—*Auld Robin Gray*—The sequel—
Marriage with Mr. Barnard—Adventures in South Africa—
Widowhood—*Chronicles of the Lindsay Family*—A serene and
buoyant old age.

CONTENTS.

ix

VII.

PAGE

JOANNA BAILLIE (1762-1851)		110-131
----------------------------	-----------	---------

Twin daughters at Bothwell Manse—"Miss Jack"—At Glasgow—Windmill Street—*Plays on the Passion*—*Basil*—*De Montfort*—Opinion of Sir Walter Scott—Life at Hampstead—*The Family Legend*—Scotch love songs—*Henriquez*—"A gently-smiling white-haired old lady"—Death.

VIII.

LADY NAIRN (1766-1845)		132-143
------------------------	-----------	---------

The Oliphants—"Sturdy little Car"—Jacobite associations—The Flower of Strathearn—County meetings—Highland flings—Begins to write Scotch songs—The *Land o' the Leal*—Marriage with Major Nairn—The Scottish minstrel—Death of Lord Nairn—Travels with her son—Returns alone to the "auld house of Gask"—Death.

IX.

MRS. RADCLIFFE (1764-1823)		144-157
----------------------------	-----------	---------

The school of horror—Birth of Anne Ward—Marriage with Mr. Radcliffe—Early romances—*The Romance of the Forest*—*The Mysteries of Udolpho*—*The Italian*—Visit to Warwick Castle—Death—*Gaston de Blondeville* and posthumous poems.

X.

MARIA EDGEWORTH (1767-1849)		158-174
-----------------------------	-----------	---------

Richard Lovell Edgeworth—Early marriage—Birth of Maria—Edgeworthstown—*Simple Susan*—*Practical Education*—*Belinda*—*Castle Rackrent*—Visit to Paris—M. Edelcrantz—*Harrington and Ormond*—Death of Mr. Edgeworth—Travels—Happy family life—*Helen*—Old age and death.

XI.

PAGE

AMELIA OPIE (1769-1853) 175-190

Birth at Norwich—The assizes—Marriage with Mr. Opie—*Father and Daughter*—*Adeline Mowbray*—Death of Mr. Opie—London amusements—A whirlpool of gay life—Intimacy with the Gurneys—Becomes a Quakeress—Buoyant to the last—Death.

XII.

JANE AUSTEN (1775-1817) 191-206

Posthumous fame—Birth at Steventon—Good-humoured satire—The Austens leave Steventon—Settle at Bath—Visit to Lyme Regis—Letters from Lyme and Bath—Mr. Austen's death—Chawton Cottage—*Sense and Sensibility*—*Pride and Prejudice*—*Mansfield Park*—*Emma*—*Persuasion*—Death at Winchester.

XIII.

LADY MORGAN (SYDNEY OWENSON) (1783-1859) . 207-226

Birth on Christmas morning—Arrival at Fishamble Street—At school at Clontarf—Mr. Owenson's bankruptcy—Sydney's independent plans—First appearance at Bracklin Castle—*St. Clair*—Interview with Mr. Smith—Journey to London—*The Wild Irish Girl*—At Baronscourt—Marriage with Sir Charles Morgan—*O'Donnel*—*Florence M'Carthy*—Books on France and Italy—Success in Society—Leaves Dublin—Widowhood and death.

XIV.

SUSAN EDMONSTONE FERRIER (1782-1854) . . . 227-242

Odd people—The Ferriers—Birth of Susan at "Lady Stair's Close"—Talent for mimicry—Visit to Inverary Castle—*Marriage*—*The Inheritance*—The Black family—*Destiny*—Last visit to Abbotsford—Failure of eyesight—Death.

CONTENTS.

xi

XV.

PAGE

MARY RUSSELL MITFORD (1787-1855) . . . 243-261

Birth at Alresford—The lottery prize—At school at Hans Place—Bertram House—In want of bread—Writing tragedies—*The Foscari*—*Our Village*—The cottage at Three-Mile Cross—*Rienzi*—Dr. Mitford's death—Charles Kingsley—James Payn—Death at Swallowfield.

XVI.

THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON (1790-1849) . 262-280

Authoresses round a tea-table—Lady Blessington's health is proposed—A Tipperary home—Marguerite is born at Knockbrit—The Powers settle at Clonmel—Marriage with Captain Farmer—Ill-treatment—Captain Farmer's death—Marriage with the Earl of Blessington—At St. James's Square—Travels in France and Italy—Acquaintance with Lord Byron—Widowhood—Novels—*Annals* and *Books of Beauty*—Gore House—Debts and difficulties—Death at Paris.