

# WOMEN IN ENGLISH LIFE.

*From Mediæval to Modern Times.*

BY

GEORGIANA HILL,

AUTHOR OF "A HISTORY OF ENGLISH DRESS."

*IN TWO VOLUMES.*

VOL. II.



LONDON:

RICHARD BENTLEY & SON, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,

*Publishers in Ordinary to Her Majesty.*

MDCCCXCVI.



W. H. B. 1787

W. H. B. 1787

*Portrait*

W. H. B. 1787

## CONTENTS OF VOL. II.



### PERIOD III.

#### *LIFE IN THE LAST CENTURY (continued).*

#### CHAPTER III.

##### THE POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF WOMEN.

	PAGE
Meaning of the word "politics"—Position and influence of the Saxon queens—The three Norman queens—The Plantagenet queens—The rule of the Hanoverians—Politicians of the last century—Interest in politics confined to the upper classes—The Duchess of Marlborough—Her opinion of women—Influence of Dissenters in politics—The Countess of Suffolk—Lady Hervey—The Countess of Huntingdon storms the House of Lords—The Westminster election—The Duchess of Devonshire .. .. .	3

#### CHAPTER IV.

##### THE BAS-BLEU.

View of literature by the fashionable world—Influence of France—Lady Mary Montagu on women's position—Women afraid of the reputation of learning—The dread of work—Conception of gentility—Mrs. Chaponé on women's studies—The literary coterie: Lady Mary Montagu, Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu, Elizabeth Carter, Mrs. Vesey, Hannah More, Mrs. Chaponé, Miss Talbot—Origin of the term "Bas-bleu"—Miss Carter on the follies of society .. .. .	40
--	----

## CHAPTER V.

## THE PHILANTHROPISTS.

	PAGE
The beginnings of organized philanthropy—Hannah More and her sisters—Mary Carpenter—Mrs. Trimmer—Elizabeth Fry—Harriet Martineau—Miss Florence Nightingale—Mrs. Josephine Butler .. .. .	59

## CHAPTER VI.

## SERMONS IN DRAWING-ROOMS.

Formalism and inertness of the Church—Societies for the advancement of religion confined to men—Movements outside the Church—The Countess of Huntingdon and Whitfield—Great ladies' opinions of the Methodist preachers—Attitude of the upper classes towards religious movements—Condition of the Clergy .. .. .	75
---	----

## PERIOD IV.

## WOMEN IN THE VICTORIAN ERA.

## CHAPTER I.

## CHANGE OF IDEAL.

Change in women's position in this century—Women's status in the past determined by the Church—De Ségur on English-women—Change of thought and customs—Women in the middle classes—Enlargement of interests among the middle classes—Single women as described by Jane Austen—Marriage as a career for women—Change of opinion—The wives of to-day—Social life—Independence of unmarried women	87
--	----

## CHAPTER II.

## THE MODERN GREAT LADY.

Fusion of classes—Social progress—Modification of women's position in the higher ranks—Duties of the modern great lady—Her new <i>role</i> .. .. .	105
--	-----

## CHAPTER III.

## WOMEN AS TRAVELLERS AND EXPLORERS.

	PAGE
English enterprise and love of travel—Travelling for pleasure a modern taste—Ida Pfeiffer—Lady Hester Stanhope—Miss Bird—Miss Annie Taylor—Lady Baker—Lady Euan Smith—Lady Sale—Miss Kingsley .. .. .	116

## CHAPTER IV.

## EDUCATIONAL ADVANCE.

Modern methods in women's education compared with the past—A French author's opinion of education in England—Some causes of progress—Character of the new education—The days of Mary Somerville and Caroline Herschell—Their election as members of the Astronomical Society—Mrs. Somerville's education—Opening of Queen's College—Origin of Girton—Foundation of Newnham—Character of modern education .. .. .	133
--	-----

## CHAPTER V.

## WOMEN IN LITERATURE.

The branches of literature in which women have been most distinguished—The first professional woman writer—Influence of public sentiment—Position of literary women in the eighteenth century—Anecdote by Lord Granville—Influence of women in literature—The new school of fiction—Rapid advance of women in all branches of literature .. .. .	149
--	-----

## CHAPTER VI.

## ART AS A PROFESSION.

The stage as a profession for women—The progress of art—Opening of the Royal Academy schools to female students—Society of Lady Artists—Women as musicians—Composers in the first half of the century—Queen Victoria's pianoforte instructress—The musical amateur .. .. .	162
--	-----

## CHAPTER VII.

## THE GENTLEWOMAN IN TRADE.

	PAGE
The old idea of a gentlewoman—Change in public sentiment— New openings for women—Women as telegraph clerks— Women in the post-office—Indignation of the male clerks— Dame Willatt and the Manchester post-office—Female clerks in the Bank of England—The gentlewoman in trade—Greater freedom enjoyed by women in choice of occupation .. ..	176

## CHAPTER VIII.

## THE MODERN WOMAN OF BUSINESS.

Changes in the occupations of women—The number of women employed in industries—Working wives—Trades recently opened to women—Women as compositors and type-writers —The modern shop-assistant—Trades now followed by women—The change of opinion as to women's occupations	187
--	-----

## CHAPTER IX.

## THE FACTORY HAND.

Importance of the industrial as compared with the agricultural class—Women's position in the industrial market—Effects of machinery and the factory system on women's work— Break-up of family life—The factory question a woman's question—Women's preference for outside work—Industrial legislation—Attitude of women workers .. ..	195
---	-----

## CHAPTER X.

## THE DOMESTIC SERVANT.

Position of the domestic servant—More men formerly employed in domestic service—The <i>demoiselles</i> and <i>chambrières</i> of former days—Servants in Elizabethan days—Interior of Hengrave Hall in the seventeenth century—Duties of maid- servants in 1677—Servants' dress regulated—Want of good servants in the last century—Defoe's observations on servants —A foreigner's opinion of English servants—Complaints of servants' costume—Registry-offices of the last century—Ser- vants' wages—Where our servants come from—Domestic service at the present day .. ..	208
--	-----

## CHAPTER XI.

## THE MODERN HUMANITARIAN MOVEMENT.

	PAGE
Capacity of women for organization—Character of modern philanthropy—Women the mainspring of the Humanitarian Movement—Baroness Burdett-Coutts—Miss Octavia Hill—Miss Emma Cons—The Moral Movement—Mrs. Butler and Miss Ellice Hopkins—Temperance work—Associations for the benefit of girls—Miss Frances Power Cobbe on women's work .. .. .	227

## CHAPTER XII.

## THE SISTERHOOD SYSTEM.

Revival of religious orders—The Anglican sisterhoods—Clewley and Harriet Monsell—Bishop Wordsworth on sisterhoods—Growth of the sisterhood system—"Sisters" in the hospitals—Significance of the movement .. .. .	237
---	-----

## CHAPTER XIII.

## THE FREEDOM OF DISSENT.

Scope for women's activities among the Dissenting communities—Women in the pulpit—Equality of men and women in the Salvation Army—Women as missionaries—Pioneers in the mission field—Women's position in the Nonconformist Churches of the present day .. .. .	246
---	-----

## CHAPTER XIV.

## WOMAN AS NURSE.

Nursing only recently made a profession—Miss Nightingale on the lack of training—Want of trained nurses in workhouses—Origin of the Nurses' Training Institution at St. Thomas's—Work of the sisterhoods—The early hospitals at religious houses—Treatment of lepers—Decline of nursing—The Crimean War period—Ancient and modern conception of nursing—The Franco-German War and Mrs. Dacre Craven—James Hinton on nursing—The Royal National Pension Fund—Miss Twining and workhouse nurses—Nursing as a profession for gentlewomen—Crushing out of the amateur ..	256
--	-----

## CHAPTER XV.

## WOMAN AS DOCTOR.

	PAGE
Medicine the only one of the learned professions open to women —Women students of medicine in Italy—Midwifery in England—Witchcraft and medicine—Midwives of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries—Female surgeons—The modern medical movement—Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell—Dr. Garrett Anderson—Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake and the fight in Edinburgh—The London School of Medicine—Public appointments held by women .. .. .	271

## CHAPTER XVI.

## WOMEN AND MODERN POLITICS.

Changes of the last half-century—Women's political organizations—Women and the Primrose League—The Women's Liberal Federation—Lady Unionists—The political education of women .. .. .	292
---	-----

## CHAPTER XVII.

## WOMEN AND PUBLIC WORK.

Women on public boards—School Board work—Early members of the School Board—Women as Poor-law Guardians : their increased numbers—Appointment of women as Factory Inspectors—Women as Sheriffs in the time of the Plantagenets—The offices of Marshal, King's Champion, and High Constable held by women—A female Sexton—Women's capacity for public work .. .. .	307
--	-----

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## THE CLAIM FOR POLITICAL EQUALITY.

Origin of the claim—Mary Woolstonecraft—The Anti-Slavery Convention—John Stuart Mill and the first Woman's Suffrage Petition— <i>The Times</i> on Woman's Suffrage—The question in Parliament—The Scotch workers—Women electors in olden times—Women voters of this century—Miss Lydia Becker's work—The Suffrage Societies—Irish workers—Incidents of the work in Scotland—Condorcet and Mr. Lecky on Woman's Suffrage .. .. .	323
---	-----