

IN THE PRESS

# The Linleys of Bath

By CLEMENTINA BLACK

Fully illustrated with many delightful portraits  
and miniatures, some of which have never  
before been reproduced.

The volume of memoirs which Miss Clementina Black has prepared deals with a family group, nearly all the members of which were personally interesting, and several of whom were closely connected with the social and theatrical life of the latter half of the 18th century. Thomas Linley, the father, who was a musician of distinction and probably the best singing-master whom England has produced, lived for many years in Bath, where, from their very early years, his children, all endowed with both talent and beauty, sang and played with him at his concerts. The eldest daughter, generally considered to be the finest singer and most beautiful woman of her day, married Sheridan, and when her husband entered upon the management of Drury Lane Theatre, Mr. Linley joined in the undertaking. Both in Bath and in London the family's circle of friends was an interesting one, and many well-known names appear in the various letters. One series of these, which are now published for the first time, contains the history of the courtship of Miss Jane Linley (who married in the year 1800) and presents a vivid picture of social and family life from the point of view of a young lady in the days of Jane Austen.

As, in addition to writing good letters, the family had a habit of sitting for good portraits, their features have been recorded by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Laurence, Westall and Cosway, and the volume will be amply illustrated.

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