

just as badly at her hands, and were assailed with the same unkindness. Their wrongs, however, have no doubt been felt by their representatives in a similar way, and some critics have in fact been found, at least to protest against this system of posthumous malice. Miss Martineau's depreciatory remarks were, in my aunt's case, entirely contradicted by the general tenor of her letters to Mrs. JAMESON, very many of which are in my possession; and in themselves seem to me not only so unjust, but so uncharacteristic, as to make doubly imperative the only real contradiction that could be given to them, by a true and genuine account of the person belied. I state this with frankness as one of my strongest motives for the work I have undertaken; feeling sure of the sympathy of all who have ever felt the sting of undeserved reproach addressed to those they love, or seen a name most dear and sacred to them treated with careless disrespect.

For the rest, the little book will speak for itself. Mrs. JAMESON's determination not to be exposed to the world in her private capacity led her to destroy many of her private letters and papers. And at her death her sisters were scrupulous in carrying out her wishes; while, on the other hand, long absence from England and separation from her old friends and old haunts have circumscribed my efforts to obtain from her surviving friends many letters which possibly still exist.