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In all the group of distinguished literary women which the present century has brought into being, there is no one who has a more charming personality, or who has won a larger place in the affections of the reading public, than Frances Hodgson Burnett. Mrs. Burnett has been specially fortunate in capturing the interest of a wider range of readers than perhaps any other writer of her sex. This comes from the fact that her genius has been such as to enable her to make a distinct success in writing for two classes of readers, the "grown-up folks" and the little people. Her popularity with the "grown-ups" was firmly established by the appearance, as long ago as 1877, of "That Lass o' Lowrie's," a sweet, pure and fascinating tale of

lowly life in the author's native Lancashire.

The place which Mrs. Burnett gained for herself among adult readers by this Lancashire romance has been made still more secure by later writings for the same class, such as "Haworths," "A Fair Barbarian," and "Through One Administration." Excellent and worthy of her genius as all these have been, none of them has quite equalled "That Lass o' Lowrie's" in the estimation of the reading public.

The story, "Through One Administration," was published in 1883, and since that date Mrs. Burnett has confined herself almost wholly to writing stories for young people, and in this field her success has been remarkable, almost beyond precedent. She had indeed few predecessors here who possessed anything like her brilliancy

of genius, and fewer competitors who really approached her standard of literary ability. There was a more open field here therefore, and a larger opportunity for striking and original work than in the older and more thoroughly beaten paths.

Mrs. Burnett, on entering into this comparatively new and untried field, improved her opportunity wisely and well. The story of "Little Lord Fauntleroy" appeared in 1886, first in serial and then in book form. The serial publication gradually worked up the interest of the youthful reading public to a high pitch; the completed book confirmed, intensified and perpetuated it. The story took its place at once among the classics of childhood along with the tales of Hans Andersen and Herman Grimm,