

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Marie Louise De la Ramée was born at Bury St. Edmunds, England, on January 1st, 1839. From her father Louis Rnné, a teacher of French, she inherited her strong mental powers and undoubted talents. At an early age she changed her name to De la Ramée, and retained this throughout her life. Her pen name, Ouida, was adopted from a childish mispronunciation of her given name Louise.

Ouida made her first appearance in print in 1859 and continued to write almost to the last. The greater part of her life was spent abroad. She made a great deal of money by her pen, but she was very extravagant. Her later years were spent in extreme poverty, relieved, however, by a pension of £150 a year granted her from the Civil List in 1906. She died at Viareggio, Italy, on January 25th, 1908. "An anonymous lady admirer erected over her grave a monument representing the recumbent figure of Ouida with a dog at her feet."

In all her writings Ouida exhibits an intense hatred of injustice. It was this feeling that resulted in her passionate love of animals, an affection which grew almost into a craze. Her writings for children, such as *A Dog of Flanders* and *The Nurnberg Stove*, exhibit her at her best, and will in all probability live long after her artificial and extravagant romances are forgotten.