

of her aunt is of the most painful description. The book was commenced last year, and the labour of its composition must have seriously weakened the constitution of the author, and hastened her death which occurred on the 24th of May.

Mrs. MacPherson's descriptions of the home of the young Murphys, their juvenile sports and pastimes, their 'adventures,' the literary precocity of Anna, and other pleasing incidents in the life of the excellent lady who afterwards asserted such an influence on her own future career, is done with a loving and tender hand. Little Anna developed talent at a very early age, and anecdotes of her poetical effusions, her fairy tales, and the fictions with which she delighted the nursery, and numberless other characteristics and episodes of her youth, are related with charming simplicity. Mrs. MacPherson's pen is quite minute, and she tells us, with careful regard to detail, everything she knows about Mrs. Jameson. We expect this in a memoir fashioned as this one has been, and no one will be disposed to quarrel with the book on that account, when it is remembered that the materials have been quite scant and the sources of information are few.

While yet very young Anna Murphy married Mr. Jameson, and though a prosperous career seemed destined for the young lovers, it soon became apparent that the marriage was a most unfortunate one. Both husband and wife had kindred tastes. Both were fond of literature, music, the drama and cultivated society, but it was not long before incompatibilities of temper and disposition began to show themselves. This unfortunate state of affairs went on for some years, and finally led to a separation. In 1829, Mr. Jameson went to the Island of Dominica as puisne judge. His wife remained with her father, and presently Mr. Murphy, and Anna, and Sir Gerard Noel left England for a tour on the Continent. A charm-

ing series of sketches, entitled 'Visits and Sketches at Home and Abroad' was the result of this journey.

In 1833, Judge Jameson returned from Dominica, and rejoined his wife at the house of her sister, Mrs. Bate. They remained together in London until the spring, when Mr. Jameson left for Canada, with the full intention of preparing a home for his wife. In the meantime she went to Germany, and was warmly welcomed in the highest literary and social circles. Her papers on Shakespeare's heroines were already familiar there, and her other writings were equally as well known and esteemed. She travelled all over Germany, and gathered much material, which was afterwards embodied in her books. In January, 1836, she met the great Humboldt, and the account of her introduction to him is related in a vivid and striking way.

In sixteen months she had only received two letters from her husband and these were cold and formal. In February, 1836, she wrote him from Weimar, in which she complained of his long silence and said :

'Between October, 1834, and October, 1835, I wrote you *eleven* letters. In August, 1835, I received from you a bill of 100*l.*, and in January, 1836, I received from Henry the intelligence that you had sent me a bill of 100*l.*, but *no letter for me*. I wrote immediately to beg for some information concerning you, and Henry by return of post sent me your letter to him. It is a letter of about two pages, in a jesting style, complaining that you never hear a word from me, but not saying that you have written, or giving the dates of any letters you have forwarded to me ; not saying anything of your position in Canada, although the state of affairs there, as it is reported in all the papers, English and German, made me expect either the news of your return, or some intelligence from you that should tranquillise me about your situation and movements. You say