

and at their house Miss Evans met many men eminent in literature and philosophy. Among them was Mrs. Bray's brother, Mr. Charles Hennell, whose inquiry into "The Origin of Christianity" was considered in 1838, when it appeared, as an important contribution to the cause of free thought. It was through Mr. Hennell's advice that Miss Evans undertook the translation of Strauss's "Leben Jesu," and accomplished her work in little more than a year—an extraordinary achievement for a young woman of twenty-five. Competent judges declared that it shewed equal mastery over the German and English languages, and Strauss himself complimented her on her success.

In 1849 her father died, and soon after she accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Bray in a tour on the continent, and with the exception of a short stay in Geneva, continued to reside with them till 1851, when she was invited by Dr. Chapman to assist him in the management of the *Westminster Review*. She then took up her residence in London, and besides contributing articles to the *Review*, she edited the sections allotted to Contemporary Literature. At the house of Mr. John Chapman she made the acquaintance of Mr. Herbert Spencer, whose friendship was hers till her death, and who was one of the mourners at her grave. It has been said that she owed much to Mr. Spencer's counsel and assistance in the cultivation and development of her mind, but this has been contradicted by Mr. Spencer himself. When his friendship with her began, in 1851, he says, "She was already distinguished by that breadth of culture and universality of power which have since made her known to all the world." In 1853 she published a translation of Feuerbach's "Essence of Christianity"; but about that time she seems to have

"discovered her genius," and thenceforth, her chief works lay in the sphere of fiction, with some volumes of poetry, which, though full of high, delicate, and subtle thought, and exquisite feeling, have, on the whole, been condemned by the critics as wanting the true music and inspiration of the singer born, not made.

It was also at Mr. Chapman's house she first met George Henry Lewes, then literary editor of the *Quarterly*, a brilliant but short-lived weekly journal of the most advanced liberal opinions, and a man of extraordinary versatility of powers. "He began life," says Mr. Frederic Harrison, "as a journalist, a critic, an essayist, a novelist, a dramatist, and a biographer; he ended as a mathematician, a physicist, a chemist, a biologist, a psychologist, and the author of a system of abstract general philosophy. He first made known the philosophy of Comte to Englishmen, and though he altogether repudiated Comte's social organization and religious system, he was the chief representative, to most English readers, of the Positive Philosophy. His "History of Philosophy" and his "Life of Goethe" must keep a permanent place in English literature, and his "Problems of Life and Mind," the supreme effort of his life, the concluding part of which was edited by the gifted woman who was the partner of his life and labours, has been recognized by all scientific thinkers as a work of great and original merit.

Many admirers of "George Eliot" have believed that she was legally married to Mr. Lewes, but those who were better informed were aware that his first wife was still living, and had never been divorced from him. It was said, however, that she had forfeited all her rights as his wife, and that he could easily have obtained his release from the tie she had broken if he had chosen to go through