

themselves with so much propriety, that their reputation increased, and they were enabled to venture on forming a larger establishment, and taking pupils of a higher class than they had hitherto been accustomed to educate. Patronized by several ladies of fortune and discernment, they, about the year 1765, removed to Bristol, and opened a boarding-school in Park street. It soon became one of the most celebrated seminaries in the West of England. Hannah More accompanied her sisters on their removal. She soon attracted the notice, and acquired the friendship of the Rev. Dr. Stonehouse, their next door neighbour; and that gentleman not only encouraged her to write, but is understood to have corrected all her early effusions. Her first publication, which appeared in 1770, or 1772, was, "The Search after Happiness, a Pastoral Drama." The reception which it experienced was so favorable, that she was encouraged to print, in 1774, her "Sir Eldred of the Bower." "The Bleeding Rock," and a tragedy, entitled "The Inflexible Captive," founded on the story of Regulus. Through the kindness of Dr. Stonehouse, Hannah More was introduced to Garrick, who advised her to write for the stage—for which, indeed, she seems to have had a strong predilection. One of the early fruits of her acquaintance with the manager was, "An Ode to Dragon, Mr. Garrick's House Dog." This appeared in 1777; as did also a volume of "Essays on several Subjects, designed for Young Ladies." In 1778, her tragedy of "Percy" was performed. It was well received; and, for a time, it seems to have established her fame as a dramatic writer. In the following year she produced another tragedy—"Fatal Falsehood."

It was not long, however, before Miss More's thoughts took a more serious turn; and, in 1785, she published "Sacred Dramas," and "Simplicity, a Poetical Epistle;" some of the dramas had previously been acted by the pupils of Miss More's school. The stage, however, having become an abomination in her eyes, she subsequently availed herself of an opportunity to declare, that she did not think it, in its then state, deserving