

INTRODUCTION.

To the readers of "Faithless," who may be inclined to think that the picture of the heroine, in actual want, is overdrawn, I would say that the writer has known, not only this one, but several other instances, where persons living in affluence previous to the Bank crash of '94, were reduced to most extreme poverty afterwards. It was not the poorer class who suffered most, but those whose pride, or delicacy, forbade them seeking that relief which kind and charitable hearts provided for those who needed it.

Of the merits of this, my second work, its readers must judge. I have endeavored to make it a book which all may read, young and old, grave or gay, and in its pages I trust nothing shall be found that would wound the feelings of the most sensitive.

As the events which are supposed to have transpired in the story, must have occurred at such a recent date, great care has been taken to place them where they cannot be identified with the originals.

The name, "Faithless," may be thought, by a great many, to be misapplied to the story, but, though being faithful in her love for Alan Horten, Eva Carlen was, in a degree, faithless, when she failed to keep her appointment with him at the end of the two years.

Most sincerely do I thank the many kind friends whose patronage helped me through, in my last work as well as in this one, with the financial difficulty of publication. In my former venture I more than realized my expectations, and should I meet with the same success in this effort, I shall feel amply rewarded for the months of labor which must be given to a work of this kind.

Should this book help to pass pleasantly a few spare hours for its readers, I shall feel that my time has not been given in vain.