

Mrs. Hemans visited Scotland in 1829, and made the acquaintance of Sir Walter Scott, and in 1830 visited Wadsworth at Mount Rydal. Her brother Major Browne, induced her to move to Dublin, where, for a time her failing health improved. But, at the age of forty-one she passed quietly away, having died as she once wished—in the spring. Her poetry expresses wide imagination, exquisite delicacy, and a purity and loftiness of feeling. The style of writing was harmonious and graceful. Almost all her powers are rich in fine description and intermingled with which are gems of beautiful imagery.

There has probably lived within the past century, no woman whose genius character, and position, are more full of interest than Elizabeth Barrett Brownings. She was far above the female poets of the age, and ranked with the first poets. Very little is known of her family life; but we learn to admire, respect and love this warm-hearted friend of liberty, through her works. Born in London, in 1809, Miss Mary Mitford describes her as she appeared at the age of twenty-six years:—

"Of a slight, delicate figure, with a shower of dark curls falling on either side of a most expressive face, large, tender eyes, richly fringed by dark eyelashes, a smile like a sunbeam, and such a look of youthfulness that I had some difficulty in persuading a friend that the translator of the "Prometheus of Æschylus," the authoress the Essay on "Mind," was old enough to be introduced into company"

Her education was such as a woman seldom receives. She was taught in classics, philosophy and science, and had an extensive knowledge of Greek literature. Mrs. Browning's first published volume was entitled "An Essay on Mind." A critic, in the *Edinburgh Review*, speaks of it as neither possessing much intrinsic merit, nor giving promise of originality; but, as "remarkable for the precocious audacity with which it deals with the greatest names in literature and science."

In early life, the bursting of a blood-vessel in one of her lungs, rendered it

necessary for her, in company with a favorite brother, to visit Torquay. While there, the sudden drowning of this young man, nearly prostrated her. For seven years she lay in a darkened room and continued her studies; having a Plato bound like a novel to deceive her physician, who feared mental application would react injuriously upon her enfeebled frame. She wrote "Lady Geraldine's Courtship," while lying on a couch, unable to sit up. The "Seraphim," is a dialogue between two angels, who are witnessing the crucifixion, and giving utterance to their emotion as they gaze upon the awful spectacle. This work is somewhat of a failure; as it is impossible to depict dramatically the working of angelic natures. The "Drama of Exile," the "Cry of the Children," and "Aurora Leigh," a social epic in blank verse, are among her productions. While residing in Italy with her gifted husband, Robert Browning, she wrote "Casa Guida Windows." Her death occurred in 1861, caused by a rapid consumption.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe is an example of our pioneer educators. She was born in the town of Litchfield, in the State of Connecticut, 1812. Her father, Rev. Lyman Beecher, D. D., was one of the grandest and sturdiest men that New England has produced. Her mother possessed extraordinary talents, rare culture, fine taste and a sweet, gentle temper. She died when Harriet was four years old; and then the little girl went to live with her aunt, whose thrift and orderly habits helped to form the character of her niece. After two years spent there, her father brought her home to meet the 'new mother,' who was a very beautiful lady. Dr. Beecher laid the foundation of his children's literary greatness by causing them to become familiar with literature in their youth. Scott, Byron, Moore and Irving, were the favorite authors; and in one summer, Harriet and her brother George went through *Ivanhoe* seven times. She was but nine years old when she wrote her first composition in the "Difference Between the Natural and the Moral Sublime." Two years after, she was appointed to be one of the writers at