

A
WOMAN OF THE CENTURY

FOURTEEN HUNDRED-SEVENTY BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
ACCOMPANIED BY PORTRAITS
OF

LEADING AMERICAN WOMEN

IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE

EDITED BY

FRANCES E. WILLARD AND MARY A. LIVERMORE

ASSISTED BY A CORPS OF ABLE CONTRIBUTORS



BUFFALO
CHICAGO NEW YORK
CHARLES WELLS MOULTON

1893

COPYRIGHT, 1893,
CHARLES WELLS MOULTON.

TYPOGRAPHY BY
CHARLES WELLS MOULTON,
BUFFALO, N. Y.

PRESS WORK BY
KITTINGER PRINTING COMPANY,
BUFFALO, N. Y.

ELECTROTYPES AND ENGRAVINGS BY
BUFFALO ELECTROTYPE AND ENGRAVING CO.,
BUFFALO, N. Y.

PAPER BY
S. WORTHINGTON PAPER CO.
HOLYOKE, MASS.

BINDING BY
WILLIAM H. BORK,
BUFFALO, N. Y.

INK BY
GEORGE H. MORRILL & CO.,
NEW YORK, N. Y.

tions chiefly from Henry Thoreau. Emerson was Mr. Alcott's most intimate friend, and very early in her life Miss Alcott became his favorite. When she was fifteen, Mr. Emerson loaned her a copy of "Wilhelm Meister," from the reading of which dated her life-long devotion to Goethe. At the age of sixteen Miss Alcott began to teach a little school of twenty members, and continued to do work of this kind in various ways for fifteen years, although it was extremely distasteful to her, and at the same time she began to write stories for publication. Her first published book was "Flower Fables" (Boston, 1855). It was not successful. She continued to write for her own amusement in her spare hours, but devoted herself to helping her father and mother by teaching school, serving as nursery governess, and even at times sewing for a living. Many of the troubles of those early years have been referred to in the sorrows of Christie in her volume called "Work," published after her



LOUISA MAY ALCOTT.

name was widely known. After awhile she found there was money in sensational stories, and she wrote them in quick succession and sent them to many papers; but this style of writing soon wearied her and she had conscientious scruples about continuing it. In 1862 she became a nurse in the Washington hospitals and devoted herself to her duties there with conscientious zeal. In consequence, she became ill herself and narrowly escaped death by typhoid fever. While in Washington she wrote to her mother and sisters letters describing hospital life and experience, which were revised and published in book-form as "Hospital Sketches" (Boston, 1863). In that year she went to Europe as companion to an invalid woman, spending a year in Germany, Switzerland, Paris and London. Then followed "Moods" (1864); "Morning Glories, and Other Tales" (1867); "Proverb Stories" (1868). She then published "Little Women," 2 volumes, (1868), a story founded

largely on incidents in the lives of her three sisters and herself at Concord. This book made its author famous. From its appearance until her death she was constantly held in public esteem, and the sale of her books has passed into many hundred thousands. Most of her stories were written while she resided in Concord, though she penned the manuscript in Boston, declaring that she could do her writing better in that city, so favorable to her genius and success. Following "Little Women" came "An Old-Fashioned Girl" (1870); "Little Men" (1871), the mere announcement of which brought an advance order from the dealers for 50,000 copies; the "Aunt Jo's Scrap-Bag" (1871, 6 volumes; "Work" 1873; "Eight Cousins" (1875); "A Rose in Bloom" (1876); "Silver Pitchers and Independence" (1876); "Modern Mephistopheles," anonymously in the "No Name Series" (1877); "Under the Lilacs" (1878); "Jack and Jill" (1880); "Proverb Stories" a new edition revised (1882); "Moods" a revised edition (1884); "Spinning-Wheel Stories" (1884); "Jo's Boys" (1886). This latest story was a sequel to "Little Men." "A Garland for Girls" (1887). With three exceptions her works were all published in Boston. Miss Alcott did not attempt a great diversity of subjects; almost everything she wrote told of scenes and incidents that had come within her personal knowledge. The sales of her books in the United States alone amount to over a half-million. Her "Little Women" reached a sale of 87,000 copies in less than three years. She wrote a few dainty poems, but never considered that her talents lay in versifying. Her death occurred 6th March, 1888, just two days after the death of her father. She was buried on 8th March in the old Sleepy Hollow graveyard in Concord, the funeral being a double one and attended only by the immediate relatives. Miss Alcott's will directed that all her unfinished manuscripts, including all letters written by her, should be burned unread.

ALCOTT, Miss May, see NIERIKER MME. MAY ALCOTT.

ALDEN, Miss Emily Gillmore, author and educator, born in Boston, Mass., 21st January, 1834. In infancy her parents removed to Cambridge, and her education was pursued in the public schools of that city, and in Mt. Holyoke Seminary, South Hadley, Mass. Her career has been chiefly that of a teacher in Castleton, Vt., and in Monticello Seminary, Godfrey, Ill. In this latter institution she now has charge of the departments of history, rhetoric, and English literature, and of senior classes for graduation. Her literary work, stimulated probably by the scope of her teaching and her experience as an enthusiastic and truly artistic educator, has been the recreation of her years, and her poems have the delicacy and spontaneity that belong to genius. Miss Alden comes of Pilgrim ancestry, being of the eighth generation in lineal descent from the Mayflower. She is singularly retiring in manner, courts no admiration for her work, and holds ever her daintiest verses in most modest estimation. She shrinks from publicity, and her first efforts were offered under a pen-name. An early critic, detecting an artistic touch in her poetic fancy, insisted that the mask should be dropped, and since then her poems have reached a very appreciative circle of readers under her own signature.

ALDEN, Mrs. Isabella Macdonald, author, born in Rochester, N. Y., 3d November, 1841. Her maiden name was Macdonald. While she was still a child, her father moved to Johnstown, N. Y., and afterwards to Gloversville, in the same State. Her pen-name "Pansy," by which she is known so

widely, was given to her by her father on the occasion when Isabella, a mere child, had plucked every blossom from a treasured bed of pansies grown by her mother. As the child showered the



ISABELLA MACDONALD ALDEN.

blossoms in her mother's lap, she said they were "every one for her," and Mr. Macdonald gave her the name which has become so famous. Her father and mother, both persons of intellect and education, encouraged her in every way in her literary work, and her progress was very rapid. When she was only ten years old, she wrote a story about an old family clock which suddenly stopped after running many years, and her father had it published. As a girl, Isabella was an aspiring and industrious author. She wrote stories, sketches, compositions, and a diary in which she recorded all the important events of her life. Her articles were accepted and published in the village papers, and "Pansy" began to be known. Her first book was published when she was yet a mere girl. A publishing house offered a prize for the best Sunday-school book upon a given subject. She wrote "Helen Lester," a small book for young people, partly to amuse herself, and sent the manuscript to the publishers, not expecting to hear from it again. To her surprise the committee selected her book as the best of those received. From that time her pen has never been idle. More than sixty volumes bear the name "Pansy," and all are good, pure books for young and old alike. Miss Macdonald was married in May, 1866, to the Rev. G. R. Alden, and she is a success as a pastor's wife. She composes easily. Her mornings are given to literary work. Some of her books are: "Esther Reid," "Four Girls at Chautauqua," "Chautauqua Girls at Home," "Tip Lewis and His Lamp," "Three People," "Links in Rebecca's Life," "Julia Reid," "Ruth Erskine's Crosses," "The King's Daughter," "The Browning Boys," "From Different Standpoints," "Mrs. Harry Harper's Awakening,"

and "The Pocket Measure." Story-writing by no means is all her work. She writes the primary lesson department of the "Westminster Teacher," edits the "Presbyterian Primary Quarterly" and the children's popular magazine "Pansy," and writes a serial story for the "Herald and Presbyter" of Cincinnati every winter. Mrs. Alden is deeply interested in Sunday-school primary teaching, and has had charge of more than a hundred children every Sunday for many years. She is interested in temperance also, but delicate health and a busy life hinder her from taking an active part in the work. She gives liberally to the cause, and four of her books, "Three People," "The King's Daughter," "One Commonplace Day," and "Little Fishers and their Nets," are distinctively temperance books, while the principle of total abstinence is maintained in all her writings. Mrs. Alden is a constant sufferer from headache, which never leaves her and is often very severe, but she refuses to call herself an invalid. She is a model housekeeper in every way. Her physician limits her to three hours of literary work each day. The famous Chautauqua system of instruction is warmly advocated by her. She has been prominently identified with that movement from its beginning. Her books are peculiarly adapted to the youth of this country. Most of them have been adopted in Sunday-school libraries throughout the United States. Rev. and Mrs. Alden are now pleasantly located in Washington, D. C.

ALDEN, Mrs. Lucy Morris Chaffee, author, born in South Wilbraham, New Hampden, Mass., 20th November, 1836. She is a daughter of Daniel D and Sarah F Chaffee. Among her maternal ancestors was Judge John Bliss, of South



LUCY MORRIS CHAFFEE ALDEN.

Wilbraham, who on the eighth of April, 1775, was appointed sole committee "to repair to Connecticut to request that Colony to co-operate with Massachusetts for the general defense," and who,