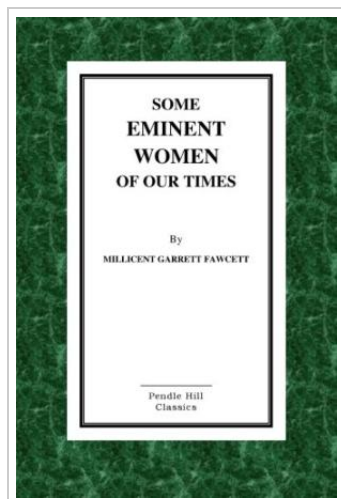



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By Millicent Garrett Fawcett

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PREFACE
THE following short sketches of the lives of some of the eminent women of our times were written for The Mothers Companion, and are now republished by the kind permission of the proprietors and publishers, Messrs. Partridge. They were suggested by the fact that nearly all the best contributions of women to literature have been made during the last hundred years, and simultaneously with this remarkable development of literary activity among women, there has been an equally remarkable activity in spheres of work held to be peculiarly feminine. So far, therefore, from greater freedom and better education encouraging women to neglect womanly work, it has caused them to apply themselves to it more systematically and more successfully. The names of Elizabeth Fry, Mary Carpenter, Sarah Martin, Agnes Jones, Florence Nightingale, and Sister Dora are a proof of this. I believe that we owe their achievements to the same impulse which in another kind of excellence has given us Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, and Elizabeth Browning. The sketches were intended chiefly for working women and...

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