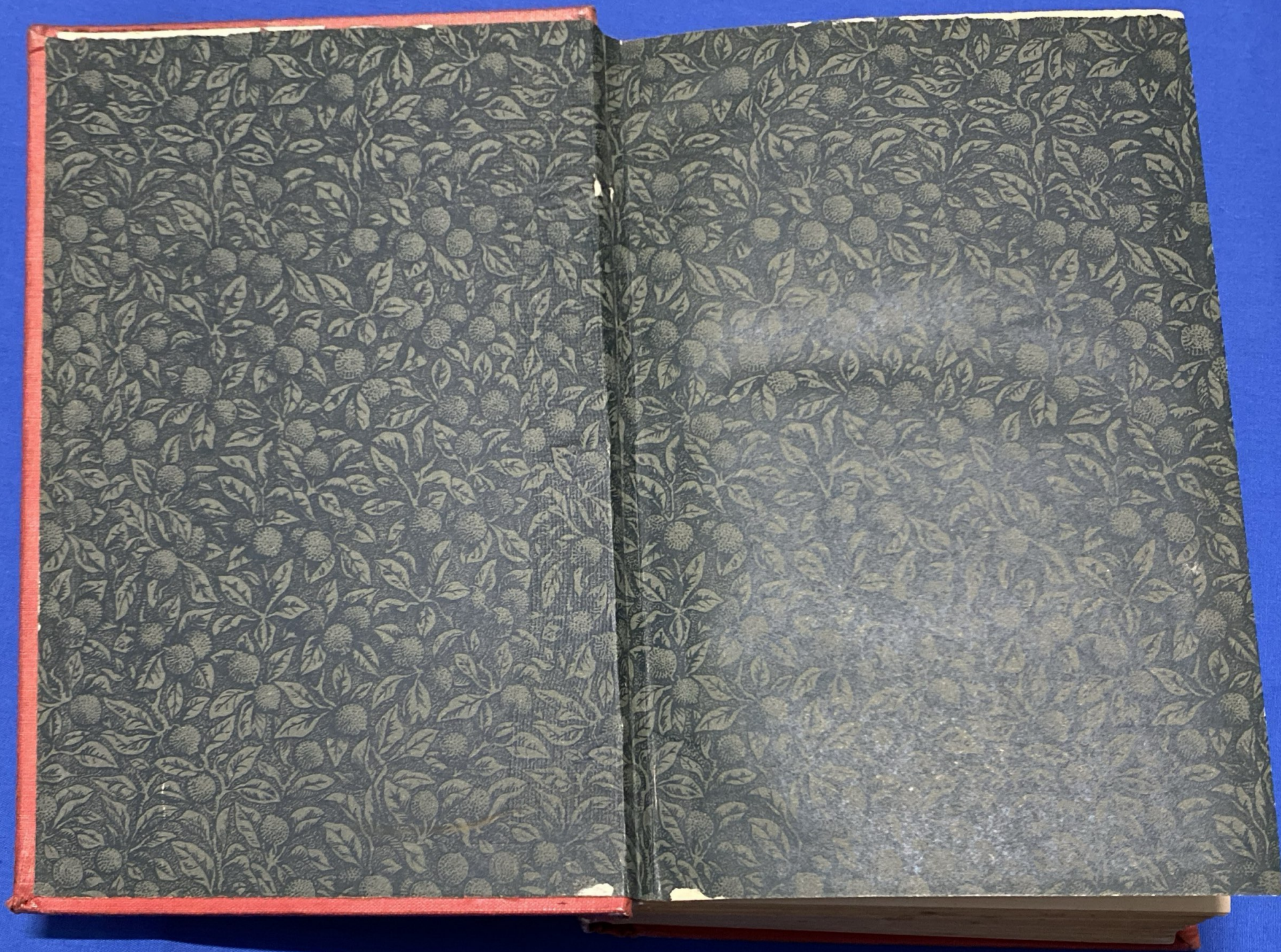


LIVES OF
GOOD & GREAT
WOMEN





2/6
Evelde Beaumont
with best wishes
from
Lu^{Ann} & Ed
Dawson

Oct 1890.

Given to Rosemary Oakley -
27. September 1914.



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

(after a portrait pub. by Colnaghi 1854)

LIVES
OF
GOOD & GREAT
WOMEN



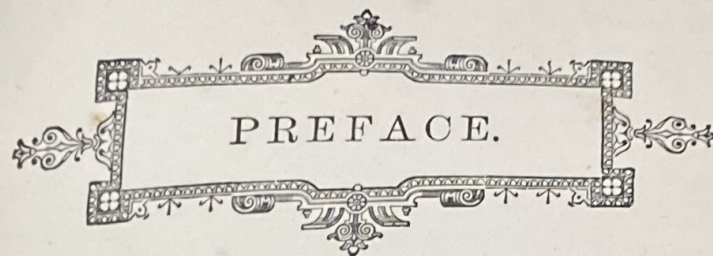

W. & R. CHAMBERS
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LIVES
OF
GOOD & GREAT
WOMEN



*Lea Hurst
Florence Nightingale's early Home*

W & R CHAMBERS
LONDON & EDINBURGH.



PREFACE.

NEW books of biography are, on the face of things, an absolute necessity. We need not forget our old heroes, our ancient ideals, and yet we may well feel that to learn something about the trials and struggles, the methods of work, and the ultimate triumphs of those who have but recently passed away, or who are still among us, may be more helpful to us in our own place. The roads of life, so to speak, have not been changed since these trod them: we can trace their very footprints. Above all, they prove to us that our century is not necessarily the ignoble time which the Present always seems to some, but that all the materials of romance and heroism lie around us still, waiting only for the soul worthy of moulding them to right ends. If it be true, as it undoubtedly is, that

The song that nerves a nation's heart
Is in itself a deed,

it is equally sure that it is a good work to dissipate the obscurity which easily gathers round some of the noblest lives, to prolong their influence beyond

the years of mortality, and to take the shining light of love and labour, which once, perhaps, shone in but a little circle of place or time, and set it on a hill, a beacon for thousands who may pass its way. A good life is the best of sermons: it is not hard to understand, nor easy to forget, and it is never too long! The lives here presented include the lofty and the lowly, culled from many departments of life, ranging from Queen Victoria down to many humble yet noble workers for the well-being of the race. With these words, we commend our book of biographies of good and great women to its readers.



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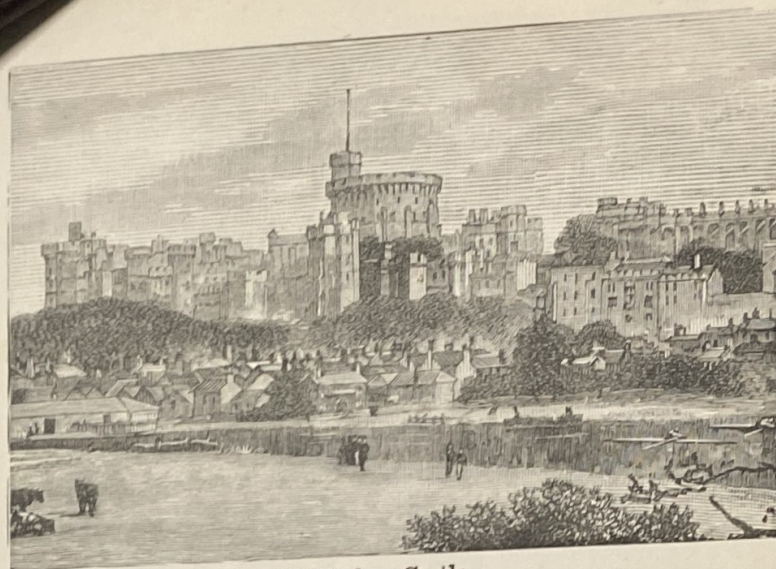
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Windsor Castle.

GOOD AND GREAT WOMEN.

QUEEN VICTORIA.

IN the year 1819 the family outlook of the British royal house was not a very bright one. The old king, George III., was lingering on in deep seclusion, a very pathetic figure, blind and imbecile. His son the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV., had not done honour to his position, nor brought happiness to any connected with him. Most of the other princes were elderly men and childless—and the Prince Regent's only daughter, the Princess Charlotte, on whom the hopes of the nation had rested, and whose marriage had raised those hopes to enthusiasm, was newly laid in her premature grave.



'passion' of some of Mr Tennyson's earlier poems; and it is probable that Wordsworth, whom she greatly admired, was loved less for the sake of his art than for the moral aim of his verse. Before entering on her great work as a social reformer, Mary Carpenter passed through a long period of spiritual conflict. She began to take an active part in the movement for the reformation of neglected children, and besides advocating their cause in her writings, she founded several reformatories for girls, one of which, the Red Lodge Reformatory, she personally superintended. She founded in 1835 a working and visiting society, of which she was secretary for more than twenty years. She gave evidence before a parliamentary committee as to juvenile delinquency in 1852, and founded a ragged school in the worst part of Bristol. By degrees her name became known and honoured throughout England; and when, in the last decade of her life, she devoted herself to the elevation of women in India, she received the heartiest welcome from the chief authorities of the empire. Mary Carpenter's four visits to India were fruitful of good works. She had an interview with the Queen in 1868 in connection with her work. Her plan of day-feeding industrial schools in connection with school-boards was authorised by parliament in 1876. This benevolent lady died 14th June 1877. See *The Life of Mary Carpenter*, by J. E. Carpenter (1879).

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