



From a photo by Eyre W. Spottiswoode after a picture by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

*Mary and Catherine Horne
Goldsmith's "Jessamy Bride," and "Little Comedy."*

A GEORGIAN PAGEANT

BY
FRANK FRANKFORT MOORE

AUTHOR OF
"THE JESSAMY BRIDE," "THE FATAL GIFT," "A NEST OF LINNETS," ETC.

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THE WRITER'S APOLOGY

THE greater number of the papers in this series, dealing with some well-known persons and incidents of the latter half of the Eighteenth Century, are the practical result of a long conversation which the writer had with the late Professor J. Churton Collins upon a very memorable occasion. The writer ventured to contend that the existing views respecting the personality of Oliver Goldsmith, of Henry Thrale, of James Boswell, of Samuel Johnson, and of some others whom he named, were grossly erroneous; as were also the prevalent notions respecting such matters as Fanny Burney's attendance upon the Queen, the "romance" of the Gunnings, and the "elopement" of Richard Brinsley Sheridan with Elizabeth Linley. If Professor Churton Collins had not urged upon the writer the possible interest attaching to the expression of some opinions unbiassed by those conservators of the conventional who have dealt with the same period, every one of them being as careful as Indians on the warpath to tread in the footsteps of the man preceding him, he would not have the courage to set forth his views in the form they now assume.

The non-controversial papers in the series may in-