

“Great Writers.”

EDITED BY

PROFESSOR ERIC S. ROBERTSON, M.A.

LIFE OF SHELLEY.

73-4
14 51

LIFE
OF
PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

BY
WILLIAM SHARP

LONDON
WALTER SCOTT
24 WARWICK LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW
1887

(All rights reserved.)

CONTENTS.



CHAPTER I.

Shelley's birth at the Manor of Field Place, August 4, 1792 ; his grandfather, Sir Bysshe Shelley ; his father, mother, and sisters ; his early childhood ; Rev. Mr. Edwards of Warnham, his first tutor ; goes to school at Sion House, Brentford ; his character, temperament, and description of his personal appearance

CHAPTER II.

Shelley goes to Eton; description of his sufferings, of his personal pleasures; his friend Dr. Lind; the beginning of his literary life, "Poems by Victor and Cazire," "Nightmare" and "Zastrozzi"; matriculates at Oxford 1810; friendship with Harriet Grove; "St. Irvyne, or the Rosicrucians"; "The Posthumous Fragments of Margaret Nicholson"; the romance "Leonora"; friendship with Thomas Jefferson Hogg, and anecdotes connected therewith; the "Necessity of Atheism"; Hogg and Shelley expelled from Oxford in 1811 28

CHAPTER III.

Shelley's engagement with his cousin Harriet Grove broken off by her parents ; Hogg and Shelley take lodgings in Poland Street ; Shelley banished from Field Place, and monetary supplies stopped ; Shelley's "Poetical Essay on the Existing State of Things" ; makes acquaintance with Harriet Westbrook ; description of her and her family ; monetary difficulties ; elopement with Harriet Westbrook, marriage, and journey to Edinburgh, where they are joined by Hogg ; correspondence with Miss Hitchener ; Shelley, Harriet, and Hogg go to York ; rupture with

Hogg ; Mr. and Mrs. Shelley joined by Eliza Westbrook ; they move to Keswick and make acquaintance with Southey ; burglary at Keswick ; Mr. Westbrook allows Harriet £200 a year ; Shelley writes a romance, "Hubert Cauvin" ; Shelley refuses to sign the entail ; is allowed £200 a year by his father ; he corresponds with William Godwin ; Shelley, Harriet, and Eliza move to Dublin ; he publishes his "Address to the Irish People" ; moves to North Wales, makes Miss Hitchener's acquaintance, and she goes to live with them ; "Letter to Lord Ellenborough" ; he makes acquaintance with William Godwin ; rupture with Miss Hitchener ; "Queen Mab," and short poems written ; burglary episode at Tannyrallt ; the trio return to Ireland, and then to London ; birth of Ianthe ; estrangement with Harriet commences ; acquaintance with the Boinvilles ; winter of 1813 spent in Edinburgh ; "The Refutation of Deism" ; Shelley re-marries Harriet ; Harriet leaves Shelley ; Shelley meets and falls in love with Mary Godwin ; interview with Harriet ; Shelley and Mary Godwin go to the Continent ; birth of Charles Bysshe, and account of Harriet's death . . . 52

CHAPTER IV.

Claire Clairmont accompanies her half-sister Mary and Shelley ; journey to Paris and Switzerland ; Shelley commences his romance "The Assassins" ; they return to England by way of the Reuss and Rhine ; Mary records the trip in her "History of a Six Weeks' Tour" ; death of Sir Bysshe Shelley ; arrangement with Sir Timothy, which gives Shelley £1,000 a year, a fifth of which is given to Harriet ; Shelley's health ; birth and death of Mary's first child ; Claire Clairmont leaves the Shelleys ; Mary and Shelley live at Bishopsgate, Windsor Park ; Peacock resides at Marlow ; they visit Oxford and other places on the Thames ; "A Summer-Evening Churchyard" ; description of "Queen Mab," and criticism ; description and criticism of "Alastor" ; birth of Mary's son William in 1816 ; in March of same year "Alastor and

CONTENTS.

7

PAGE

other Poems" published; unpleasantness with William Godwin; Mary and Shelley and Claire Clairmont go to Geneva; Mary and Shelley become acquainted with Byron; Claire Clairmont's liaison with Byron; friendship of the two poets; "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" conceived; "Lines to Mont Blanc" composed; they meet "Monk" Lewis; incidents connected with composition of Mary Godwin's "Frankenstein"; Shelley and Mary return to England; they visit Peacock at Marlow; in 1817 they settle at West Marlow; death of Godwin's adopted daughter, Fanny Imlay; Shelley visits Leigh Hunt, and hears of Harriet's death; reconciliation with William Godwin; Shelley and Mary Godwin married in London on December 30, 1816 105

CHAPTER V.

Mr. Westbrook gains custody of the two children; birth of Allegra; Shelley meets Keats at Leigh Hunt's house in 1817; Shelley's poetic creations; "Endymion" and "Laon and Cythna"; description and criticism of the latter poem; its publication under title of "Revolt of Islam"; Mary and Shelley's second child born 1818; "Rosalind and Helen"; "Prince Athanase"; "Ozymandias"; "To Constantia Singing"; Shelley's prose writings; "Essay on Christianity"; "A Proposal of Putting Reform to the Vote"; "An Address to the People on the Death of Princess Charlotte"; Shelley's philanthropy at Marlow; christening of the children; Mary, Shelley, and children leave England 1818 . . . 124

CHAPTER VI.

The Shelleys meet the Gisbornes at Leghorn; go to Bagni Lucca; Byron's conduct to Claire Clairmont and Allegra; Shelley goes to Byron in Venice; Byron lends the Shelleys his villa at Este; Shelley's little daughter Clara dies; "Julian and Maddalo"; "Lines written among the Euganean Hills"; Allegra returned to Byron's care; Shelley goes to Naples; "Stanzas written in dejection