

**FANNY BURNEY  
(MADAME  
D' ARBLAY)**

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Fanny Burney (Madame d' Arblay) by Austin Dobson

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**AUSTIN DOBSON**

**FANNY BURNEY  
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D' ARBLAY)**



*ENGLISH MEN OF LETTERS*

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(MADAME D'ARBLAY)

BY

AUSTIN DOBSON

LONDON: MACMILLAN & CO., LIMITED  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FOUR

## PREFACE

THE main sources for this memoir of Frances or Fanny Burney,—afterwards Madame D'Arbly,—in addition to her novels, the literature of the period, and the works specified in the footnotes, are as follows :—

1. *Memoirs of Dr. Burney, arranged from his own Manuscript, from Family Papers, and from Personal Recollections.* By his Daughter, Madame D'Arbly. In Three Volumes. London : Moxon, 1832.
2. *Diary and Letters of Madame D'Arbly, Author of "Evelina," "Cecilia," etc.* Edited by her Niece. [In Seven Volumes.] London : Colburn, 1842-46. [The edition here used is Swan Sonnenschein's four volume issue of 1892.]
3. *The Early Diary of Frances Burney 1768-1778. With a Selection from her Correspondence, and from the Journals of her Sisters Susan and Charlotte Burney.* Edited by Annie Raine Ellis. In Two Volumes. London : George Bell and Sons, 1889.

I am indebted to the kindness of Archdeacon Burney, Vicar of St. Mark's, Surbiton, for access to his unique extra-illustrated copy of the *Diary and Letters* of 1842-6, which contains, among other

interesting MSS., the originals of Mrs. Thrale's letter mentioned at page 86 of this volume, and of Burke's letter mentioned at page 124. Archdeacon Burney is the possessor of Edward Burney's portrait of his cousin (page 88); of the Reynolds portraits of Dr. Burney and Garrick from the Thrale Gallery (page 94); of a very fine portrait of Dr. Charles Burney by Lawrence; and of a group by Hudson of Hetty Burney, her husband, Charles Rousseau Burney, and her husband's father, Richard Burney of Worcester.

I am also indebted to Mrs. Chappel of East Orchard, Shaftesbury, granddaughter of Mrs. Barrett, the editor of the *Diary and Letters*, for valuable information as to Burney relics in her possession.

A. D.

75, EATON RISE, EALING, W.,  
September 18, 1903.



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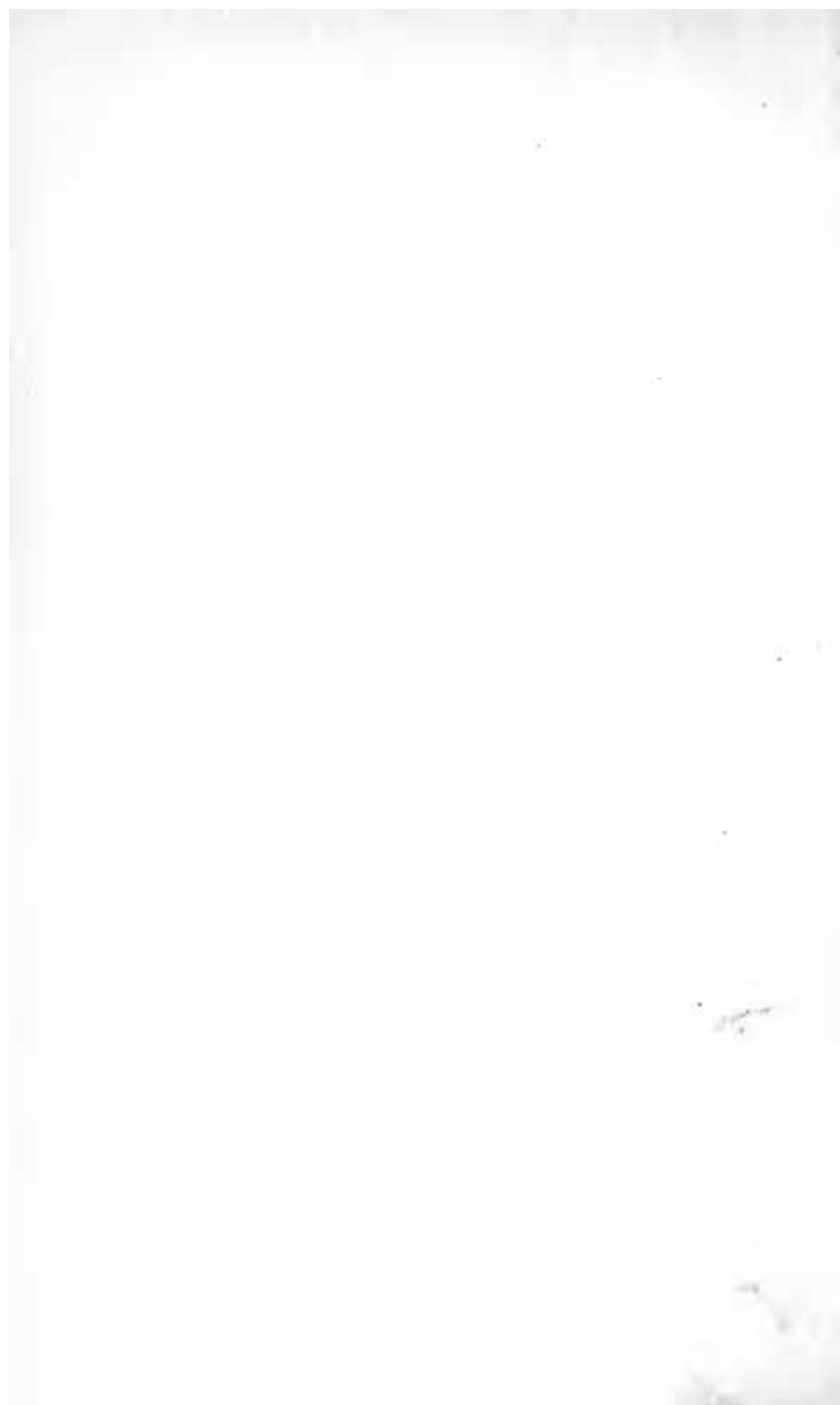
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# FANNY BURNEY

## CHAPTER I.

### THE BURNEY FAMILY

IN the second half of the seventeenth century, there lived at the village of Great Hanwood, four miles from Shrewsbury, a country gentleman of a good estate, named James Macburney. In later life, he was land-steward to the Earl of Ashburnham; and he rented or possessed a house in the Privy Garden at Whitehall. Tradition traces his family to Scotland, whence it was said to have arrived with James I. However this may be,—and the point was not regarded as of much importance by his descendants,—James Macburney married his Shropshire rector's daughter; begat a son; and in due time, became a widower. The son—also James Macburney—was educated at Westminster School under the redoubtable Dr. Busby. Then, taking to art, he worked as a pupil of the "eminent Face Painter," Michael Dahl. About 1697, at the age of nineteen, he ran away with Rebecca Ellis, an actress in Giffard's Company, and younger than himself. Thereupon his irate father disinherited him, and in further token of his displeasure, took to wife his own cook, by whom he had another son called Joseph, who, as soon