

**EDNA LYALL: AN  
APPRECIATION.  
WITH BIOGRAPHICAL  
AND CRITICAL NOTES**

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Edna Lyall: An Appreciation. With Biographical and Critical Notes by George A. Payne

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**GEORGE A. PAYNE**

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AND CRITICAL NOTES**



# Mrs. Gaskell and Knutsford,

BY

REV. G. A. PAYNE.

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LYALL.

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# "Edna Lyall:"

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With Biographical and Critical Notes.

BY THE

REV. GEORGE A. PAYNE,

AUTHOR OF

"MRS. GASKELL AND KNUTSFORD."

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## P R E F A C E .

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YEARS ago I read "Donovan" and "We Two," and was immensely interested; so much so, that I have read each subsequent work by the same authoress soon after its publication with great eagerness.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to write an appreciation of "Edna Lyall," which I hope may be successful in yet enlarging the very wide circle of her readers. There may be some who do not share my views, who would perhaps hold that "Edna Lyall" is a superficial writer; there may be some who will hold that there is far too much insistence on the moral, which I am willing to admit runs through most of her stories; there may be some who will hold that "Edna Lyall," while she has written one or two books of real sterling worth, has nevertheless overwritten herself. While I

shall not claim that she is worthy of a place in the front rank of women novelists, with George Eliot and Charlotte Brontë and Mrs. Gaskell, I do claim that she is one of the teachers of our day, who has done a great deal in softening bitterness and prejudice, and in broadening the minds of narrow and small-souled people. She has drawn in "Doreen," for instance, a fair picture, not only of Irish scenery, but of Irish traits and characteristics. She has stood up for the wronged Armenians. She has shown in "We Two" that even an Atheist may possess greater kindness and generosity than many professing Christians; in "Wayfaring Men" and "Knight Errant" that the actor and public singer have vocations which may be as honourable as those of what are termed the learned professions; and has shown that Christianity consists in being and doing, and not in professing or believing.