

**MY MOTHER: OR,  
RECOLLECTIONS OF  
MATERNAL INFLUENCE**

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My mother: or, Recollections of maternal influence by John Mitchell

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**JOHN MITCHELL**

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# MY MOTHER:

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OF

## MATERNAL INFLUENCE.

"We will revive those times, and in our memories  
Preserve and still keep fresh, like flowers by water,  
Those happy days." — *PEREGRINE*.

"My hour! — the spirit of its love is breathing  
In every wind that plays across my track."

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## PUBLISHERS' ADVERTISEMENT.

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THIS work was originally published in 1849. It speedily ran through three editions, when the failure of its publisher arrested its further success. What copies remained on sale were soon bought up, and the work, for a time, disappeared from the market.

It is now presented to the public with the essential claims of a new work. This is done at the urgent solicitation of those whose knowledge of the book and whose literary judgment entitle them to speak with authority in the matter. To them it seemed to be a work so singularly charming in its whole character, and in all its details, that they would not willingly let it die. "It is one of those rare pictures," writes one who is himself an author of celebrity, "painted from life with the exquisite skill of one of the old masters, which so seldom present themselves to the amateur." The present publishers have undertaken its republication in the full confidence that the reading public will endorse this judgment.

In regard to the aim and character of the work, the author says, in a recent communication, that, "however much of a biographical nature may be found in it, it was not intended

as a biography, as some have conceived it to have been. Its aim was *educational*. It was believed that such observations on maternal influence and domestic life as are here drawn from memory, presented in a narrative way, might be attractive and useful to mothers of young families; perhaps, also, to husbands and fathers."

The author, who has already distinguished himself in other walks of literature, chooses for the present to conceal his name; the time may come when the veil will be removed. His motives for publishing the book anonymously will be appreciated and honored by every person of due sensibility. "Involving, as it does," he writes, "so much that is of a personal nature, I never could have written it except under cover of assumed names or blanks. Indeed, I was almost conscience-stricken, when I had done it, for having written so much, even anonymously, concerning a venerated parent, while she was living, without her knowledge and consent; and was at a loss how to justify myself to her, except by a plea always powerful with her — *the hope of accomplishing some good by it*, with, at the same time, a studious concealment of places and persons. There were others, also, whose humility in some cases, or whose pride or love of kindred in others, might be hurt, if they were named, or palpably or traceably alluded to."

The present edition contains an additional chapter of new matter, that essentially enhances its value.

GOULD AND LINCOLN.



## P R E F A C E .

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THIS volume needs no other preface than the following note:—

MY DEAR MRS. ——— :

I have, as you perceive, complied with your request—more at length, and more discursively than I intended, or you, perhaps, expected or desired. You wanted some account of my mother *as* a mother, and I have given you here a miscellany of characters, incidents, reflections, and I know not what. The history of the mother, as such, is, so far as domestic education is concerned, almost necessarily the history of the family itself.

The freedom I have felt in writing to a friend, or my filial partialities, or that fondness we all naturally have for dwelling on remembered scenes, especially those of our childhood, when once we get among them, any one or all of these things may have been the cause of my responding to your request with so copious a manuscript.

It is not necessary that I should say to you that, in these notices of a beloved parent, there is nothing very novel or extraordinary. They exhibit only a plain

Christian woman bringing up a family under certain circumstances, more or less peculiar, but only so as the circumstances of every family are different from those of every other. It is the wisdom and experience of such as are in the ordinary walks of life that are most likely to be useful. For the histories of those whose circumstances have been extraordinary, who have moved in higher spheres than others, or have run through rare adventures, are presented to us as unique or extreme cases; which, though they are more entertaining, are less available for common use.

If these humble reminiscences prove of any service to you, as I hope they may, in the discharge of your own responsible duties as a mother; if they in some measure justify the confidence expressed by you, that you will "gather wisdom from her methods, and fidelity and courage from her faith, patience, and success," I shall not regret the hours spent in writing them.

Wishing you all needed wisdom, and much happiness in the successful training of your young and hopeful charge, I remain,

Your friend and Christian brother,

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