

**THE LETTERS OF A NOBLE
WOMAN (MRS. LA
TOUCHE OF HARRISTOWN).
[LONDON-1908]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649631391

The Letters of a Noble Woman (Mrs. La Touche of Harristown). [London-1908] by Mrs. Maria La Touche & Margaret Ferrier Young

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MRS. MARIA LA TOUCHE & MARGARET FERRIER YOUNG

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MARIA LA TOUCHE
1854

From a miniature at Harristown

THE LETTERS OF A NOBLE WOMAN

(MRS. LA TOUCHE OF HARRISTOWN)

EDITED BY

MARGARET FERRIER YOUNG

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON: GEORGE ALLEN & SONS

156, CHARING CROSS ROAD

1908

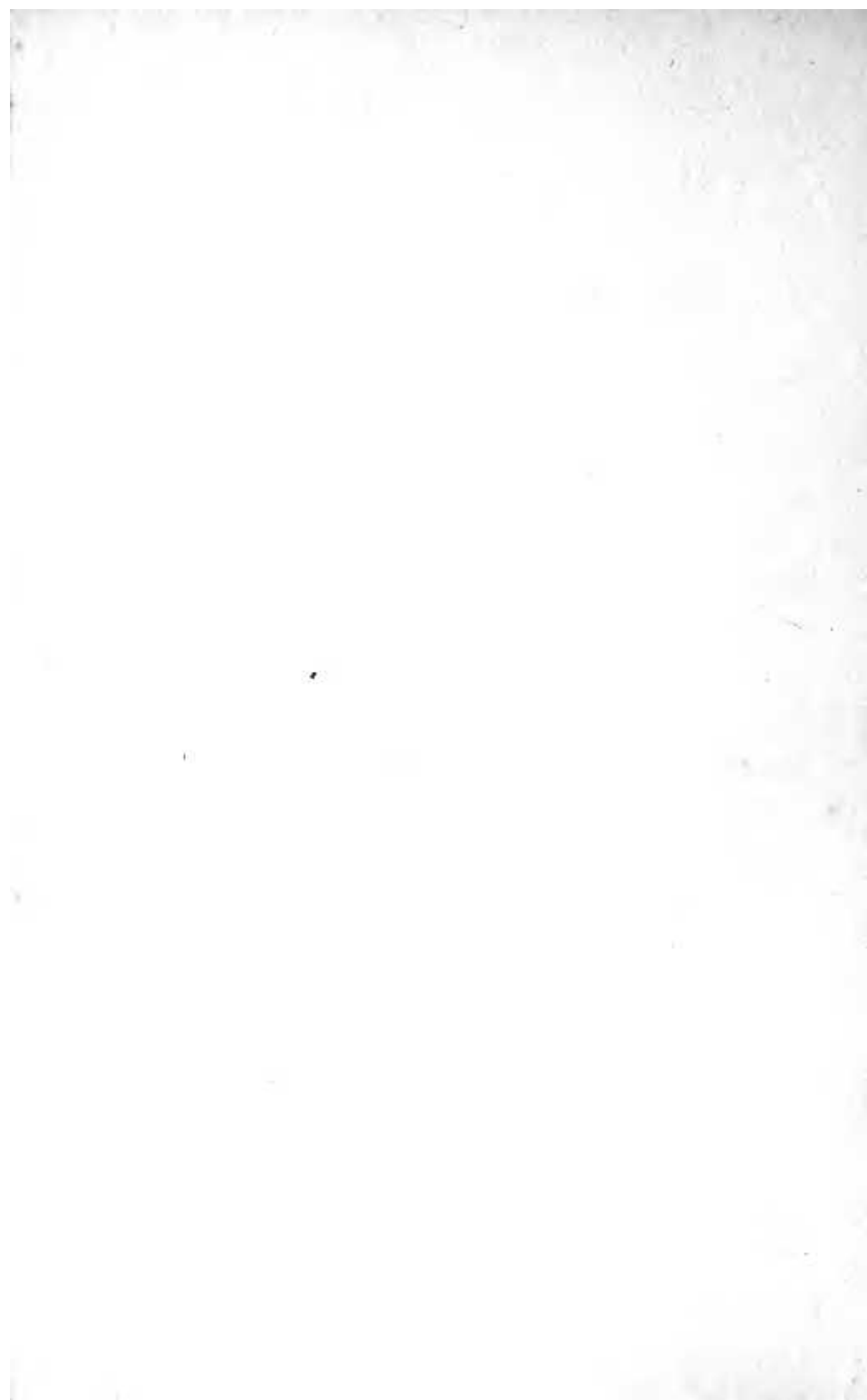
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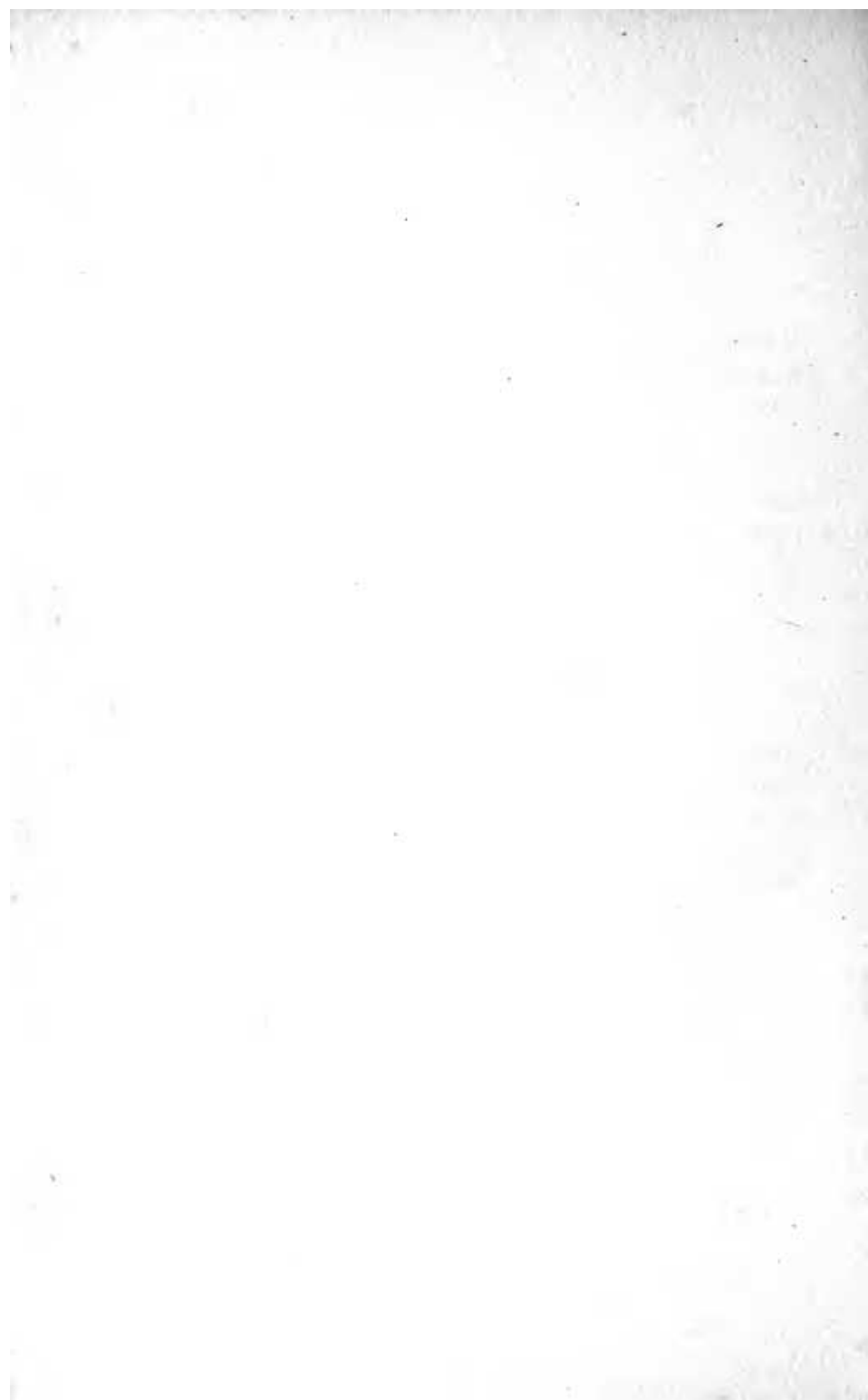
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INTRODUCTION

THIS selection of the late Mrs. La Touche's letters has been made that some slight memorial should exist of one who certainly understood the art of letter-writing—an art that is rapidly dying out in these strenuous and unrestful days. It is to be regretted that very few letters of her early years exist, and those that were obtainable of no general interest. But when one remembers the stirring times Ireland has passed through, and the many political ups and downs of the island, one wishes it had been possible to obtain some of those letters that described these events.

With few exceptions, none of her correspondence with her own family is included, and in preparing the slight sketch of her life for the press, only such details as would render the letters intelligible to the general reader have been retained: her family justly feeling that a long memoir was as unnecessary as it was undesirable.

Among her earlier correspondents was Louisa Lady Waterford, and in writing in 1860 to her friend Mrs. Bernal Osborne, she says: "How I wish you knew Mrs. La Touche! How you would enjoy her letters; here is a bit I thought so clever which she wrote to me lately:

"Her¹ outward life is very uncongenial to mine,

¹ This referred to a friend.