

**MARJORIE FLEMING: THE STORY OF PET
MARJORIE TOGETHER WITH HER
JOURNALS AND HER LETTERS. TO WHICH
IS ADDED MARJORIE FLEMING, A STORY
OF CHILD-LIFE FIFTY YEARS AGO**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649643653

Marjorie Fleming: The Story of Pet Marjorie Together with Her Journals and Her Letters. To Which Is Added Marjorie Fleming, a Story of Child-Life Fifty Years Ago by L. MacBean & John Brown

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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L. MACBEAN & JOHN BROWN

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Portrait of Marjorie Fleming during
her last illness.

From a water-colour drawing.

Marjorie Fleming

The Story of Pet Marjorie

Together with Her Journals and Her Letters

By L. MACBEAN

To which is added

Marjorie Fleming

A Story of Child-Life Fifty Years Ago

By JOHN BROWN, M.D.

Illustrated

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS. New York: 27 and 29
West Twenty-third Street. London: 24 Bedford
Street, Strand. *The Knickerbocker Press*. 1904

Preface to the American Edition

BRIEF and elusive as have been the glimpses of Pet Marjorie vouchsafed to the reading public, her bright, ethereal figure has left an unfading impression on the imagination and there must be many to whom a fuller revelation will be welcome. Her little life-story and her wonderful diaries, hitherto unpublished, are therefore set forth in the following pages. The child endeared herself both to her own family and to a wide circle of cultured friends, including Sir Walter Scott, whose cousin was married to her aunt. But it was not until her tiny form had rested for fifty years in the ancient churchyard of Abbotshall that there appeared in print the first reference to her remarkable personality. Mr. Henry B. Farnie, a journalist and playwright, then published an appreciation of the

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little maid, illustrated by sentences culled from her journals. Dr. John Brown, author of *Rab and his Friends* and *Horæ Subsecivæ*, having seen this sketch, made independent enquiries and published a charming article entitled *Marjorie Fleming*, in which he gave special prominence to her influence on Scott. This twenty-page pamphlet, as Mr. Eric S. Robertson well remarks in his book *The Children of the Poets*, is the "best book about a child that ever was written." Since its publication, many writers have "added a stone to the cairn" of Pet Marjorie, and in Britain's roll of fame, *The Dictionary of National Biography*, Sir Leslie Stephen concludes the paragraph devoted to her with the words, "Pet Marjorie's life is probably the shortest to be recorded in these volumes and she is one of the most charming characters."

The preparation of a book describing more fully Marjorie's life and surroundings was suggested by the centenary of her birth, and the writing of its pages has been done in what used to be her garden and playground. While the materials were being collected, the fortunate discovery was made that a manu-

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<p>script copy of her journals still existed, and Dr. Brown's son has kindly allowed it to be used. The family of Capt. Bremner, Marjorie's nephew, have lent books and other relics, and a dear friend of Marjorie's mother and sister, who lives in the house where the child was born and died, has contributed interesting details. Though but newly published in England, the book has been to some extent rewritten for America, and the opportunity has been taken to embody additional information; for Marjorie has always had friends in the States, and it may be hoped that this completer revelation of her sweet self will commend her still more to the affections of American readers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">L. M.</p> <p>LONDON, <i>April 2, 1904.</i></p>	Preface

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