

**CRANFORD: A PLAY; A  
COMEDY IN THREE  
ACTS MADE FROM MRS  
GASKELL'S FAMOUS STORY**

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Cranford: A Play; A Comedy in Three Acts Made from Mrs Gaskell's Famous Story by  
Marguerite Merington

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**MARGUERITE MERINGTON**

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GASKELL'S FAMOUS STORY**



*CRANFORD: A PLAY*



*"Miss Matilda Jenkyns—and the ladies of Cranford—my  
sister-in-law, Lady Glenmire."*

# *CRANFORD: A PLAY*

*A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS MADE  
FROM MRS GASKELL'S  
FAMOUS STORY*

*By*

*MARGUERITE MERINGTON*

*Author of "Captain Letterblair," "Love finds the way," etc.*



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## PERSONS IN THE PLAY

- MISS MATILDA JENKYNs (MISS MATTY).—“*Meek and undecided to a fault*” . . . “*small, gentle, mousey face*” . . . “*Folks looks is often against them . . . not far short of sixty!*” . . . “*We all love Miss Matty . . . I somehow think we are all of us better when she is near us!*”
- MARY SMITH.—“*A well-to-do and happy young woman.*”
- MARTHA.—“*A rough, honest-looking country girl, blunt and plain-spoken to a fault . . . brisk, well-meaning, but very ignorant.*”
- MISS POLE.—“*A great deal of savoir-faire . . . a way of popping into all sorts of places to gratify her curiosity . . . a way, which if she had not looked so very genteel and prim, might have been considered impertinent!*” “*Such people never tread lightly, or seat themselves without a bump!*”
- MRS. FORRESTER.—“*A meek, enduring old lady in most things*” . . . “*kind, gentle, shabbily-dressed.*” *Slightly deaf.*
- MRS. FITZ-ADAM.—“*A well-to-do widow . . . dressed in rustling black silk.*” *Had been “nothing but a country girl.” Always the largest lady in the room.*
- MISS BETTY BARKER.—“*Not so young as she had been . . . dressed finer than any lady in Cranford, wearing out all the bonnets and caps and outrageous ribbons which had once formed her stock-in-trade.*”
- THE HON. MRS. JAMIESON.—“*Fat and inert, dull, pompous, tiresome. . . Inclined to doze by nature . . . a torpid smile . . . a placid ruminating expression of countenance, not unlike a cow’s.*”
- LADY GLENMIRE.—“*A bright little woman of middle age who*

*had been very pretty, and was even yet very pleasant-looking . . . a broad Scotch accent, but a very sweet voice . . . bright, kind, sociable, agreeable . . . in dress far removed from the vulgarities of wealth!"*

PETER MARMADUKE ARLEY JENKYNs.—*"His clothes had an out-of-the-way, foreign cut about them . . . his face tanned and retanned by the sun."*

TIME OF THE PLAY:—King William the Fourth and Queen Adelaide are on the throne. The old Duke of Wellington, whenever he rides abroad, is cheered for his famous victories over the French. A little maiden named Victoria is being trained for her future duties as Queen.

COSTUMES:—Of the period, though independent of fashion. "What does it signify how we dress here at Cranford where everybody knows us!" Ladies who cannot afford Sedan Chairs, under the guidance of a lantern-bearer clatter home from parties in their pattens, and wearing calashes. "Do you know what a calash is? It is a covering worn over caps, not unlike the heads fastened on old-fashioned gigs, but not quite so large!"

SCENE:—Miss Matty's drawing-room. Two doors, one to hall, the other to bedrooms. Window overlooking street. Grate fire. Screen. Clock. Books. Prints and family portraits in oils on walls. Solid furniture. Table, side-table, and baize-topped card-tables for party. "An old-fashioned piano that had been a spinet in its youth." "The china was delicate egg shell, the old-fashioned silver glittered with polishing." It required some contrivance to keep our two candles of the same length, ready to be lighted, and to look as if we burnt two always!

ACT I

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