

**MEMOIR OF
CHARLOTTE
CHAMBERS, PP. 1-133**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649645909

Memoir of Charlotte Chambers, pp. 1-133 by Lewis H. Garrard

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Cover @ 2017

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LEWIS H. GARRARD

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MEMOIR

OF

CHARLOTTE CHAMBERS,

By her Grandson,

LEWIS H. GARRARD.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.
1856.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by

LEWIS M. GARRARD,

in the office of the Clerk of the District Court of the United States in and for
the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

PRINTED BY T. K. AND F. G. COLLINS.

To Mrs. Sarah Wella M'Kean.

MY DEAR MOTHER:

I wish to inscribe this book to you.

When in the past summer, you placed in my hands the letters which had been treasured by you these past thirty years with all the devotion of a daughter's affection, I felt that the trust was far greater than my capability to fulfil. You well know that I approached the task with much diffidence; for I was sensible of a want of that Christian spirit, and that refinement of appreciation, necessary to the preparation of a memoir of so sacred a character as this.

From you I early learned to revere the subject of this memoir. And while now away from your presence, as I read the precious letters which your hand—long ere mine knew how to trace them—transcribed from the faded and dismembered originals, your image is ever before me. Could a son desire a more touching duty than the compilation of these letters thus hallowed by a mother's care, or wish the hours of contemplative seclusion more acceptably employed?

But whatever the merit of preserving the sentiments in this book—whatever of filial love and respect their committal to print will show, must be accorded to you, and to you alone—I have been but the instrument to execute your design.

L R W I S.

P R E F A C E.

IN reviewing a past era, we usually accept in the absence of other evidence, the characteristics of its prominent actors as the several personal types of that age; and whether those individuals have done vast evil, or accomplished much good, they surely stamp its reputation.

But turning from this high-road of humanity's journeying into the unobtrusive paths trod by the simply devout and exemplary, we see that their lives—though replete with deeds pleasing in the sight of Heaven and illustrating the virtues of a community contributing largely to the general public morals—lack the brilliancy and the salient points which fascinate and retain the attention after death has resolved into dust all that was mortal, and forever stilled the voice that was not heard, save in the cause of love, justice, and mercy.

Often, however, there are recollections too vivid, and written indications of traits too decided, to permit the dulling influence of time, with its obliterating tide of a new and careless generation, to bear its wonted sway. Occasionally also, these are dear to some reverential member of the family, who would thus enshrine the excellencies of the departed by placing in permanent and convenient form, those thoughts that win the way to our kindly sympathies with their gentle euphony; and increase our esteem of the one who penned them, by their elevating tendency and strongly pervading sense of the Christian graces.

It is much to be regretted that the lapse of many years has prevented the reclamation of but a fragmentary portion of the letters of Charlotte Chambers; and sadder yet to say, that even of these a large number were irrecoverably mislaid. Still, it is trusted, that the few here presented will be welcomed as a slight tribute to the debt long since due—and if their perusal will impart the natural gratification of witnessing a clear record of those who have “gone before,” and aid in cherishing in the minds of descendants the laudable desire of

continuing the name and lineage in the course of probity and respectability, the writer will truly feel that his earnest purpose has not been entirely without some value.