

DIARY OF A POOR YOUNG LADY

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Diary of a Poor Young Lady by J.H. Bryant

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J.H. BRYANT

**DIARY OF A POOR
YOUNG LADY**

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OF



A POOR YOUNG LADY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF M. HATHUSIUS
BY EMILY RITZEROW.

EDITED, WITH A PREFACE,
BY THE REV. J. H. BRYANT, B.D.,
VICAR OF ANLEY, WARWICKSHIRE.

"In every good heart the noble feeling is innate that it cannot
be happy by itself: it must seek its happiness in the welfare of
others."

LONDON:
W. MACINTOSH, 24, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1869.

210. g. 299

LONDON:
PRINTED BY J. MOORE, 41, FLEET STREET, STRAND.

To my dear Pupils
This Translation
Is
Affectionately Inscribed.

E. Y.

London, 1869.

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PREFACE.

THE following pages, containing the diary of Mademoiselle de Plettenhaus, will introduce the reader to a charming picture of German country life. To all who value real worthiness, this story will commend itself by the healthy moral tone which pervades it. We are taught, in a pleasing way, the duty of trusting in our loving Father, who is constantly caring for us and regarding us with affection from His throne in Heaven. We are led to see also that those who love God will love and help their fellow-creatures.

Those readers, who hanker after thrilling narratives and descriptions of exciting scenes, will be disappointed if they expect to find here a gratification of their morbid taste. But those who love what is

true to nature, and what is healthful and elevating, will be pleased, as well as benefited, by the beautiful spirit that breathes throughout these pages.

The heroine is not a perfect character; but she is none the less loveable for her little weaknesses. The mixture of pride and humility in her disposition, and the simplicity with which all her failures, as well as her successes, are told, is very charming, because very natural. The aunt, who has trained the young lady from her infancy, and instilled quite a sufficient quantity of family pride and ambition into the young heart, is a speaking picture, which we can all realise. Then again, who will not appreciate and love Catharine, the old and faithful servant of the house, full of love to her God, and affection for those whom she served more as a friend than as a servant?

But, indeed, all the characters brought before us are life-like, and serve to heighten the interest and point the moral of the tale. The picture of filial tenderness and constancy, which is gradually

developed, and the fidelity which is shown by the two domestics at Plettenhaus, raise our appreciation of human nature. We are led on to hate selfishness by the display of the opposite virtue face to face with it. We are induced to admire true nobility of character by its being contrasted with the meanness of those who are only elevated by position without real worth.

The highest good of all that will result from the perusal of this simple diary is the lesson of implicit trust in God, and love to Him, which His children should cultivate. And from this love to Him will flow to us some of His own likeness: we shall be holy and loving as He is.

I have great satisfaction in testifying my approval of what this little book contains, and recommending it, as not merely the amusement of an idle hour, but as a teacher of great and blessed truths by simple and pleasing means. The translation has been carefully revised and made as perfect as possible in every respect.

The book is sent forth with an earnest wish that