

**BERNARD BARTON AND
HIS FRIENDS: A
RECORD OF QUIET
LIVES. [LONDON-1893]**

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Bernard Barton and His Friends: A Record of Quiet Lives. [London-1893] by Edward Verrall Lucas

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EDWARD VERRALL LUCAS

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VERRALL LUCAS.

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TO

MRS. EDWARD FITZGERALD

IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HER UNTIRING HELPFULNESS AND ENCOURAGING INTEREST DURING ITS PROGRESS, THIS RECORD OF THE LIFE AND FRIENDSHIPS OF HER FATHER IS RESPECTFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

PREFATORY NOTE.

IN 1849, the year of Bernard Barton's death, there was published a selection of his letters and poems, edited by his daughter, together with a brief memoir of the poet by his friend the late Edward FitzGerald. This memoir, for delicacy of style, justice of appreciation, and rightness of proportion, is a model of what such memoirs should be; and to tamper with it is almost sacrilege. But the volume of which it is a part being out of print and only rarely obtainable, and the life of Bernard Barton, by reason of its wise cheerfulness, simplicity, and wholesome sweetness, being in this hurried, incomplete day of ours so fraught with charm and instruction, I gladly accepted the invitation to attempt to recover and reproduce some of its serenity. With the consent of Mr. FitzGerald's literary executor, Mr. Aldis Wright, I have however on every possible occasion used the words of the memoir rather than my own, so that the present book is practically a reprint of the volume of 1849, with much new matter added.

The readers will find, I hope not to their confusion, that in the pages that follow little attempt has been made at a consecutive narrative. I regret that it was impracticable to

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present the life of Bernard Barton year by year, achievement after achievement ; but his career was so uneventful, and so devoid of any kind of progression, that he may be said truthfully to have been as firmly established in his convictions and philosophy of living at the age of thirty as of sixty. Even his latest poems show no advance upon his earliest. Moreover he did not move with the times, and he took no part in public affairs ; from the death of his wife in 1808, until his own death in 1849, he lived through one long, level day. At the risk therefore of sinning against art, I have occasionally leaped from the twenties to the forties, and from the thirties back to the tens, in such a way as would cause bewilderment were the dates of any importance.

I have to express my thanks principally to Mrs. Edward FitzGerald, and also to Miss Churchyard, Mr. Samuel Alexander, and others, for the assistance they have given me in my researches ; and to Mr. Aldis Wright and Messrs. Macmillan and Co., for kindly allowing me to make extracts from the *Letters and Literary Remains of Edward FitzGerald*.

EDWARD VERRALL LUCAS.

LONDON, *December, 1893.*