

LECTURE 7

The Victorian Literature



19th century - highly contradictory

On the one hand

➔ industrial interests were more important than traditional agriculture

➔ the Industrial Revolution was complete and the Great Exhibition in London in 1851 was its high point

On the one hand

➔ Britain had become the "workshop of the world"

➔ railways and steamships were built

➔ great scientific discoveries were made

➔ education became more widespread

On the other hand

- ➔ great urban poverty
- ➔ social injustice
- ➔ dirty factories, inhumanly long hours of work, child labour, exploitation of both men and women workers, low wages, slums and frequent unemployment - these are the hard and facts of reality of the period

1837-1848

the Chartist Movement signaled the emergence of the working-class movement as a political force.

The Chartist Movement was so called because of its Charter of six points, which included the right of all males to vote.

CHARTIST DEMONSTRATION!!

“PEACE and ORDER” is our MOTTO!

TO THE WORKING MEN OF LONDON.

Fellow Men,—The Press having misrepresented and vilified us and our intentions, the Demonstration Committee therefore consider it to be their duty to state that the grievances of us (the Working Classes) are deep and our demands just. We and our families are pining in misery, want, and starvation! We demand a fair day's wages for a fair day's work! We are the slaves of capital—we demand protection to our labour. We are political serfs—we demand to be free. We therefore invite all well disposed to join in our peaceful procession on

MONDAY NEXT, April 10,
As it is for the good of all that we seek to remove the evils under which we groan.

The following are the places of Meeting of THE CHARTISTS, THE TRADES, THE IRISH CONFEDERATE & REPEAL BODIES:

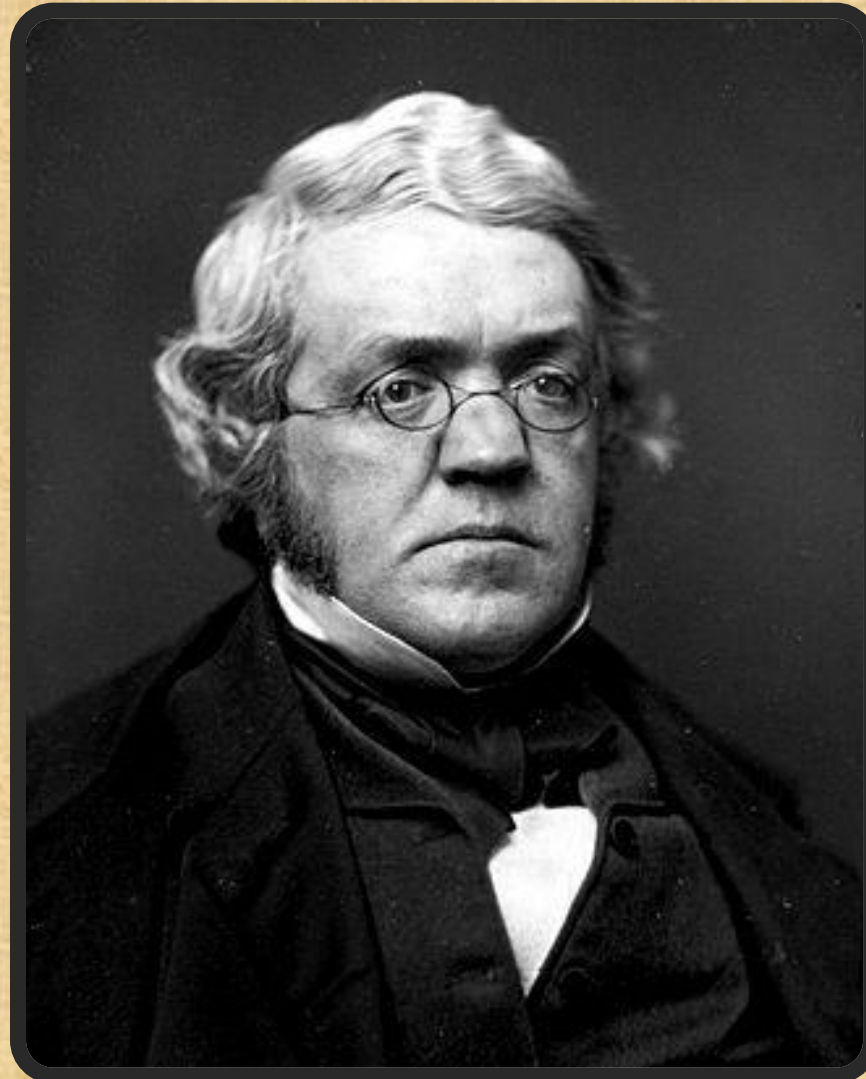
East Division on Stepney Green at 8 o'clock; City and Finsbury Division on Clerkenwell Green at 9 o'clock; West Division in Russell Square at 9 o'clock; and the South Division in Peckham Fields at 9 o'clock, and proceed from thence to Kennington Common.

Signed on behalf of the Committee, JOHN ARNOTT, Sec.
Henry Hinchman, Printer, 5, Edward Street, (Haymarket Road.)

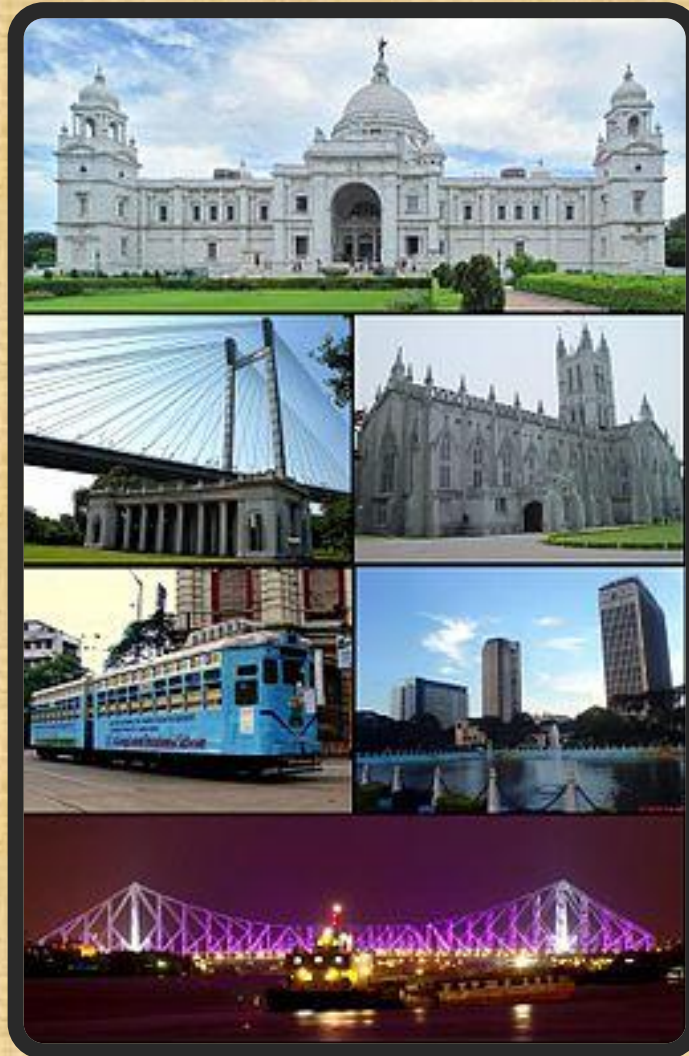
Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)



**William Makepeace Thackeray
(1811-1863)**



was born on 18 July 1811
in Calcutta, India



father

Richmond Thackeray, a high rank secretary to the board of revenue in the British East India Company

mother

Anne Becher, a secretary writer for the East India Company

At five

went on attending his first school St. Helena
and then at Charterhouse School

his abhorrence for the school is evident in his
later fictions where he chose to call it
mockingly a "Slaughterhouse"

went on to study at Trinity College,
Cambridge but left it in the middle of the
session in 1830

he had started writing for the college
magazine *The Snob* and *The Gownsmen*

After an extensive trip to Paris and Weimar, he returned to England and enrolled at the Middle Temple to study law

Once again he gave up, leaving the college soon



Upon inheriting his father's assets at the age of 21, he invested in two newspapers and lost the money as they crumpled down soon.

He worsened the condition by investing in banks that were at the verge of becoming insolvent and when this happened, he was coerced to find a job to support himself.

For sometime, he
worked
as an artist

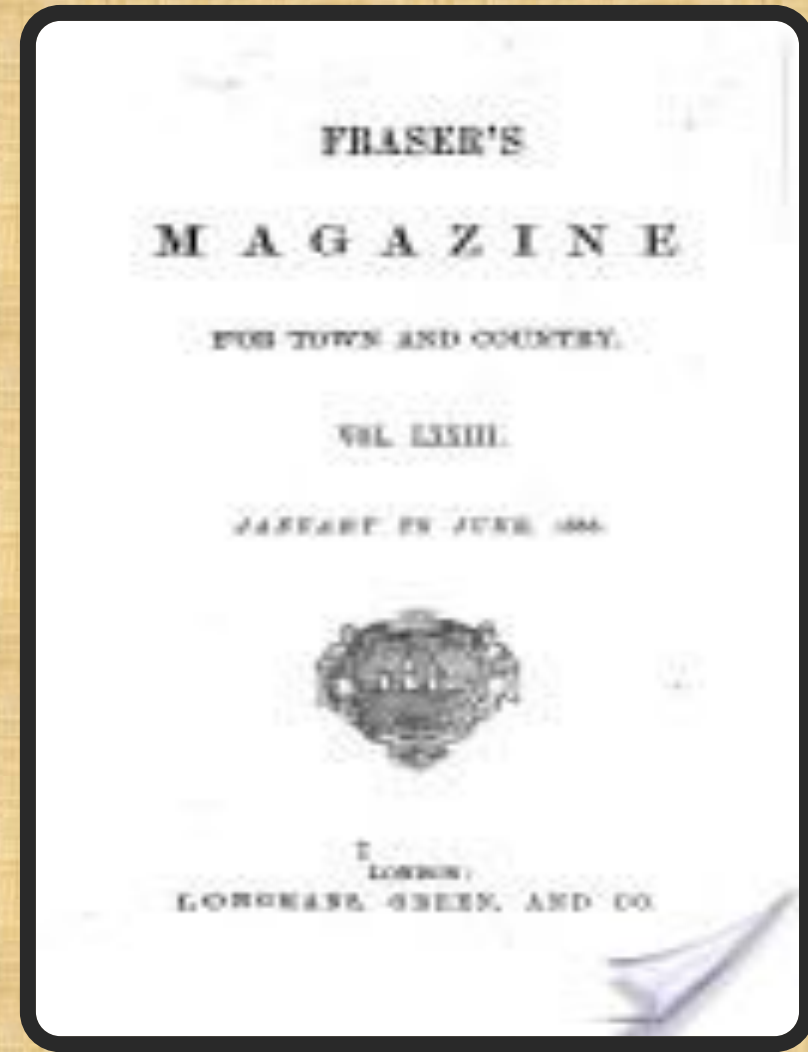


phillipmartin.info



on 20 August 1836,
married
Isabella Gethin Shawe,
daughter of Mathew
Shawe, a colonel

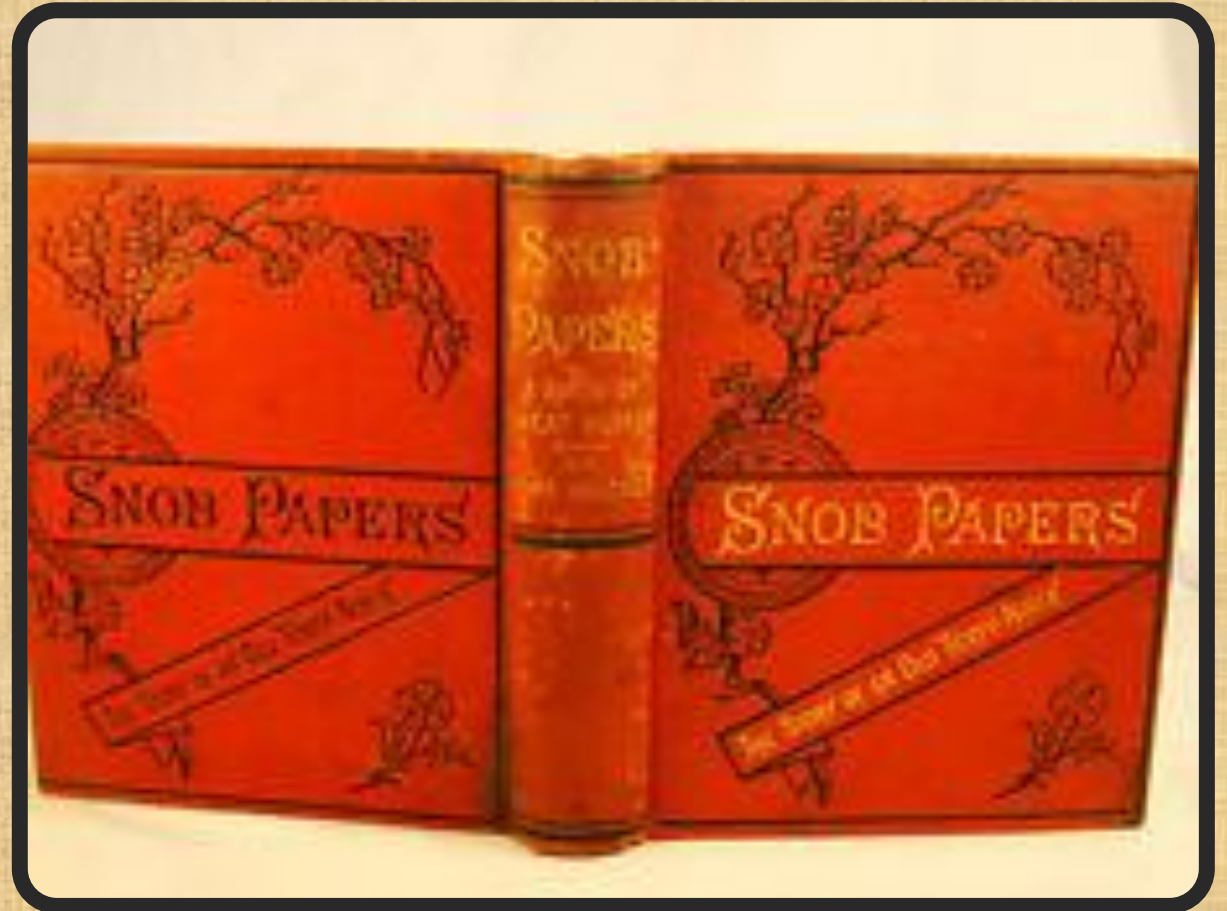
The marriage forced him to find a viable and stable source of income and he finally got a job with Fraser's Magazine



During this period, he produced two fictional works Catherine and The Luck of Barry Lyndon.

He began working for a magazine Punch, publishing The Snob Papers. The works would later become known as The Book of Snobs.

The book gave him initial success and fame, however, the happiness was overshadowed by the growing illness of his wife

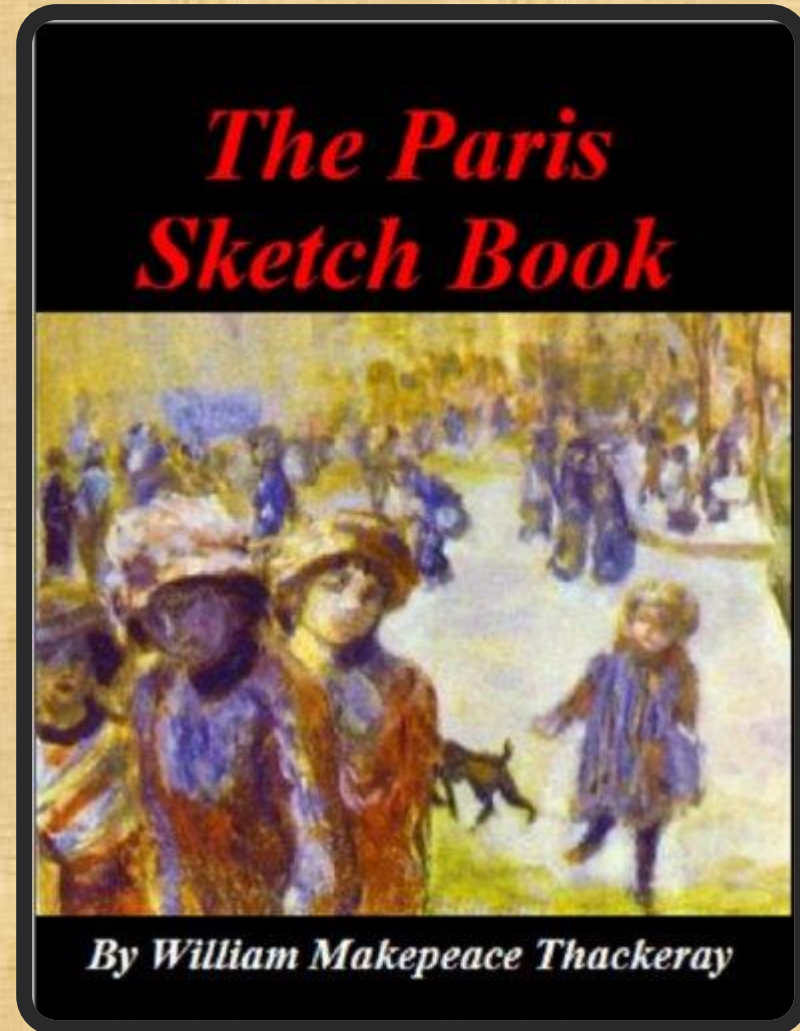


In 1840, he took his wife to Ireland in a hope to improve her condition.

She threw herself in to the sea on their way to Ireland and was rescued by the sea men.

Two years after in 1842, she was confined in a home in Paris, where she lived until her death in 1893.

By as early as 1940,
Thackeray had
gained popularity
with the release of
his two travel books
The Paris Sketch
Book and The Irish
Sketch Book.





His landmark success came in 1847, when the novel *Vanity Fair* was first published and soon became one of his most remembered works.

In 1849, he suffered from a deadly attack of illness which left him bedridden for months.

Despite his ailing health and reduced energy, Thackeray continued lecturing at various Universities and seminars.

In 1860, he was
made editor of
the Cornhill
Magazine

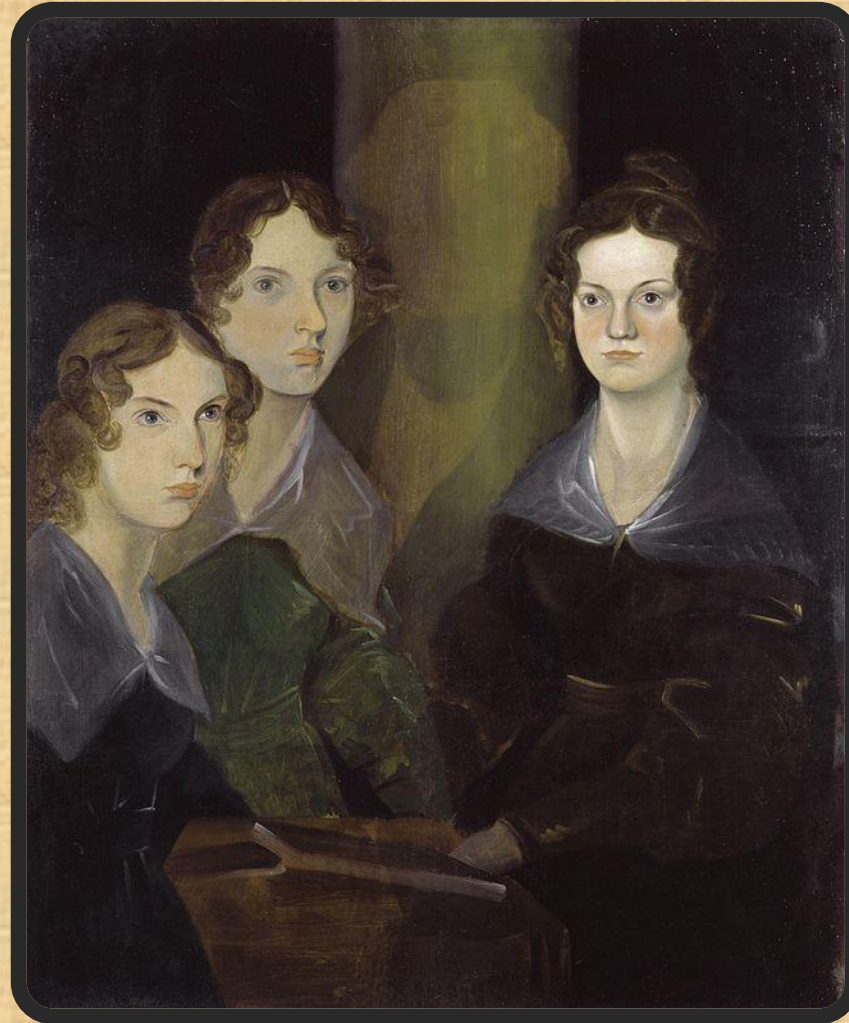


By this time, his health had worsened
(depression)

His over eating and addiction to black pepper further damaged his digestion and made him a heart patient.

On the night of 23 December 1863, the author attended a dinner party and was found dead in his bedroom the next morning.

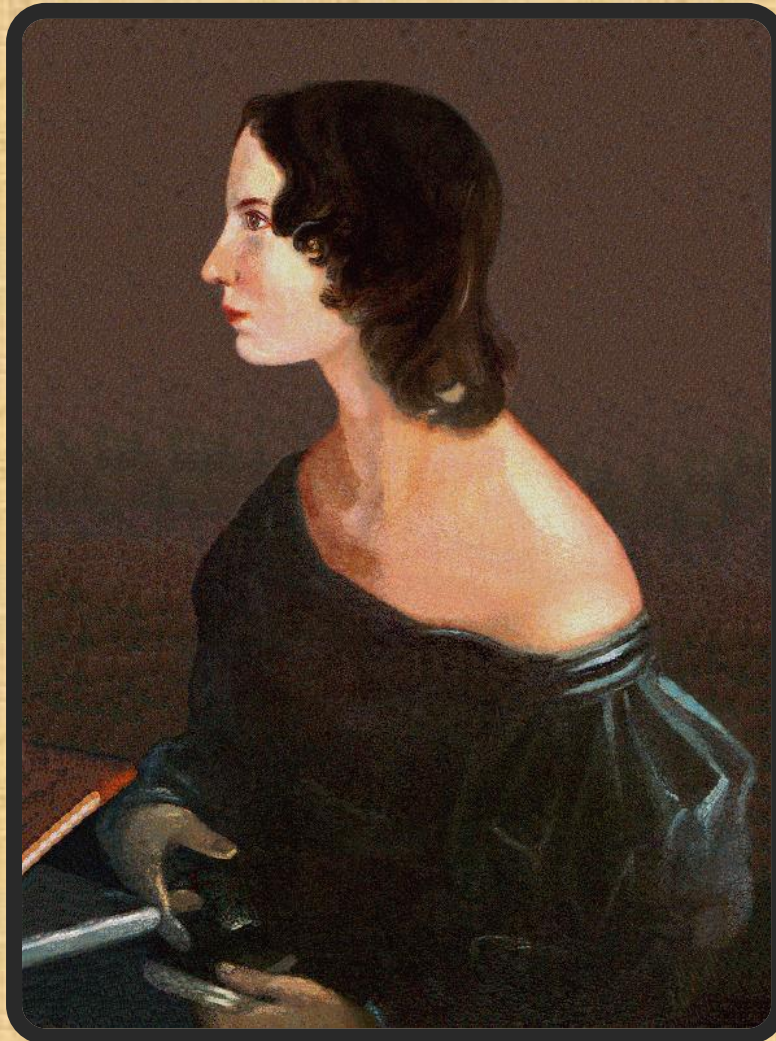
The Brontës



Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855)



Emily Brontë(1818-1848)



Anne Brontë (1820-1849)



Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855)



was born on
April 21, 1816,
in Thornton,
Yorkshire,
England



was raised in a strict Anglican home by her clergyman father and a religious aunt (after her mother and two eldest siblings died)





**IN THIS
HOUSE WERE BORN
THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE**

BRONTË FAMILY

CHARLOTTE	—	1816.
PATRICK BRANWELL		1817.
EMILY JANE	—	1818.
ANNE	— —	1820.

She and her sister Emily attended the Clergy Daughter's School at Cowan Bridge, but were largely educated at home



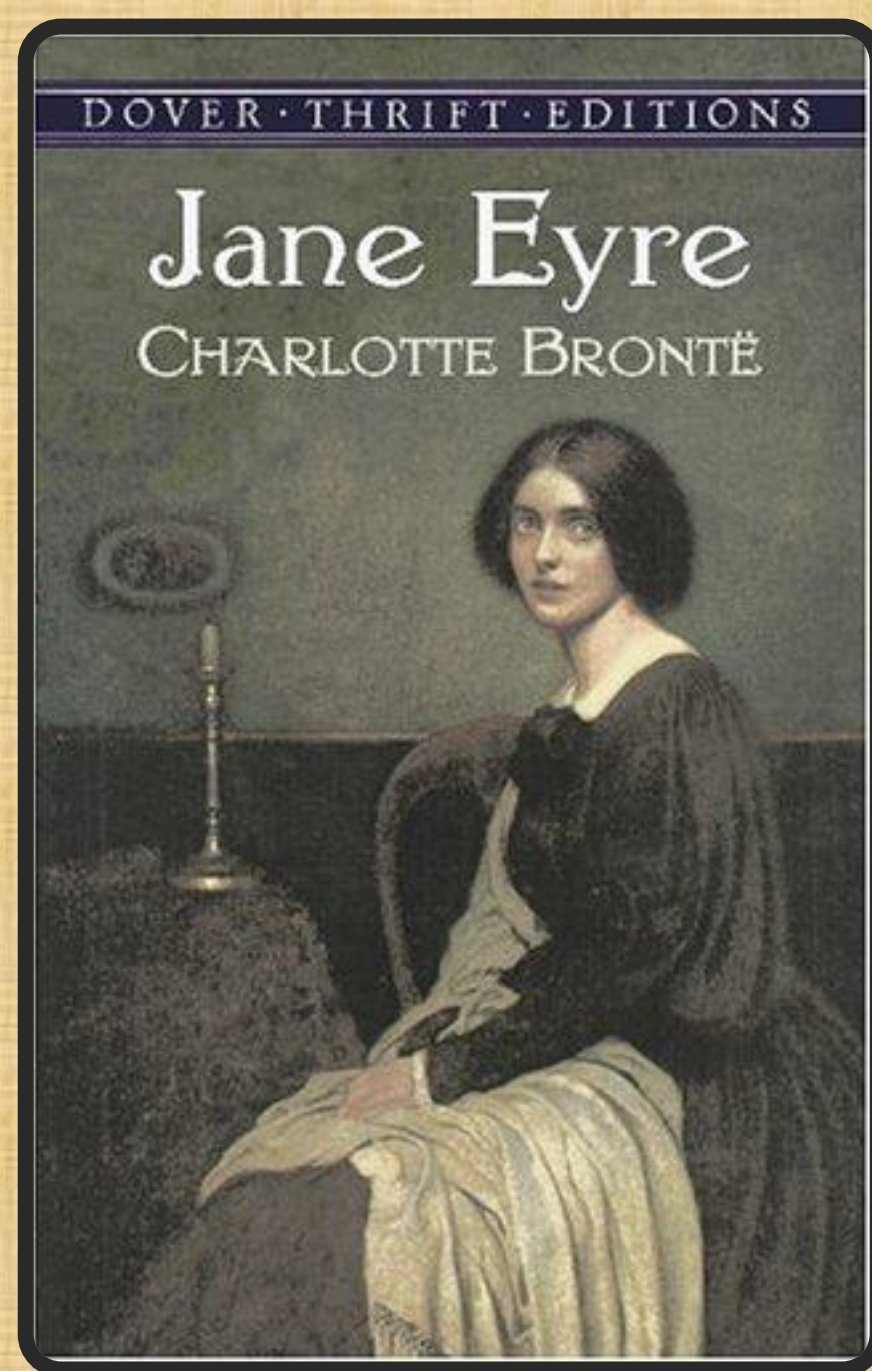
MARIA, ELIZABETH, CHARLOTTE &
EMILY BRONTE

LIVED HERE AS PUPILS OF THE
CLERGY DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL 1824-25,
THE SCHOOL WAS MOVED TO CASTERTON
1835.



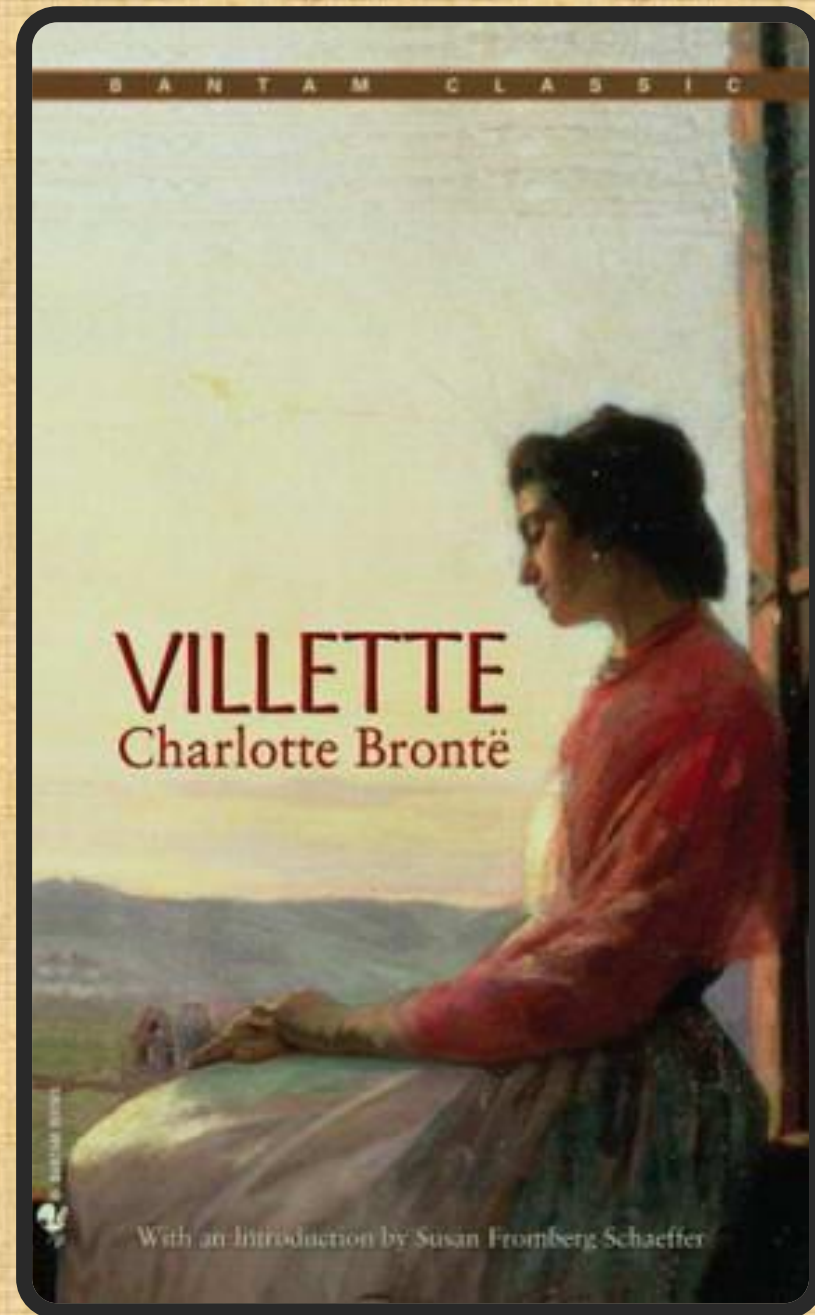
tried to earn a living as both a governess and a teacher, Brontë missed her sisters and eventually returned home

A writer all her
life, Charlotte
published her first
novel,
“Jane Eyre” (1847)
under the manly
pseudonym
Currer Bell



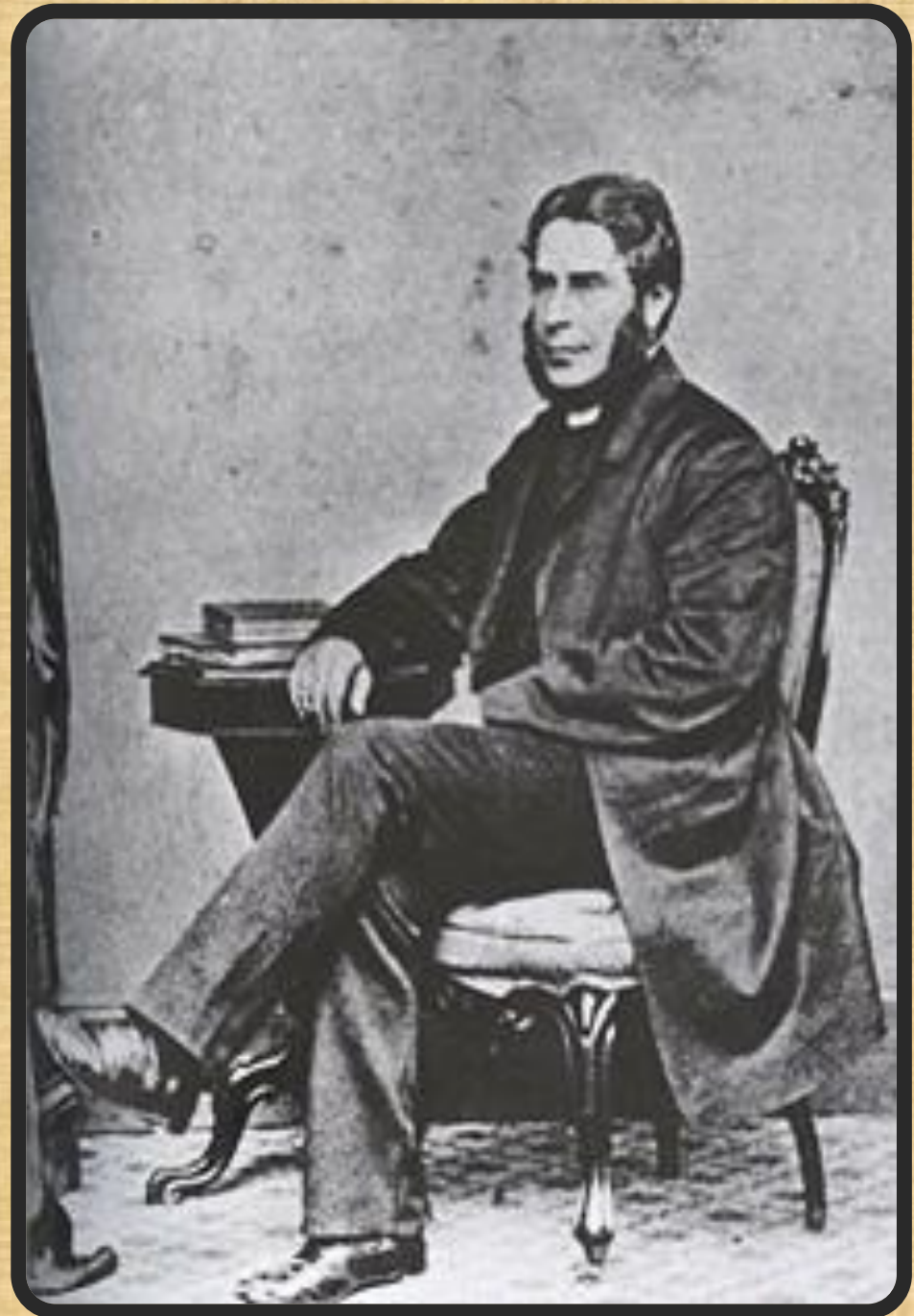
the book was an
immediate hit

She followed the
success with
“*Shirley*” (1848)
“*Vilette*” (1853)

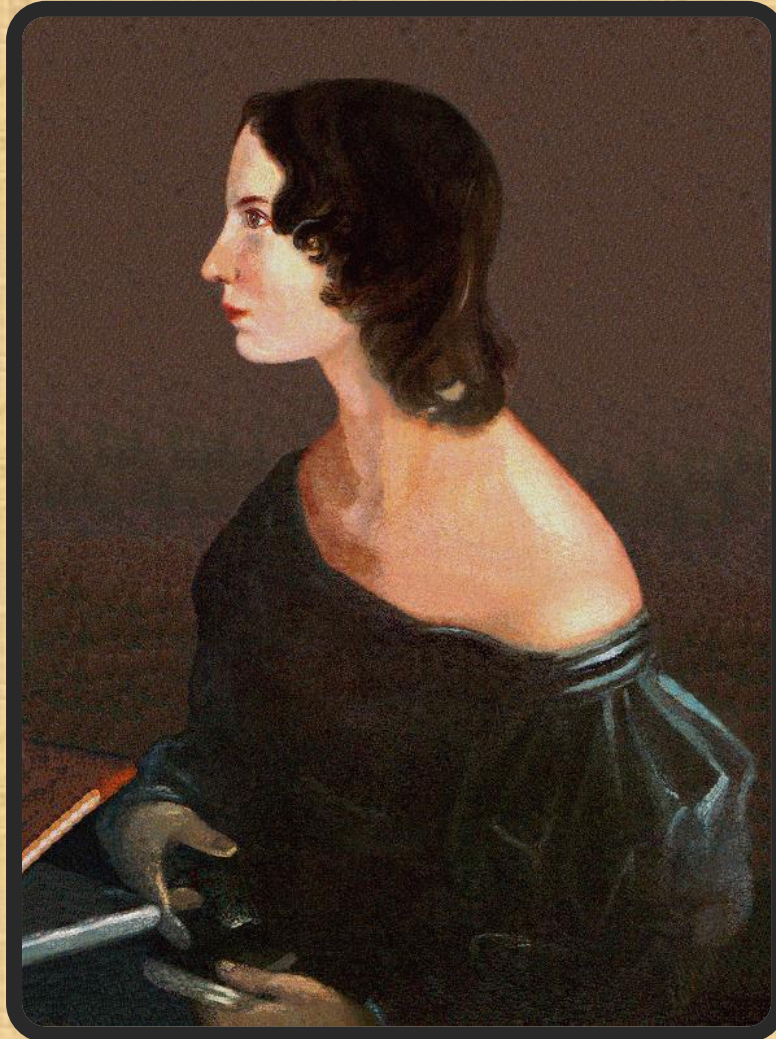


1854

Charlotte married
Arthur Bell Nicholls,
but died the following
year during her
pregnancy

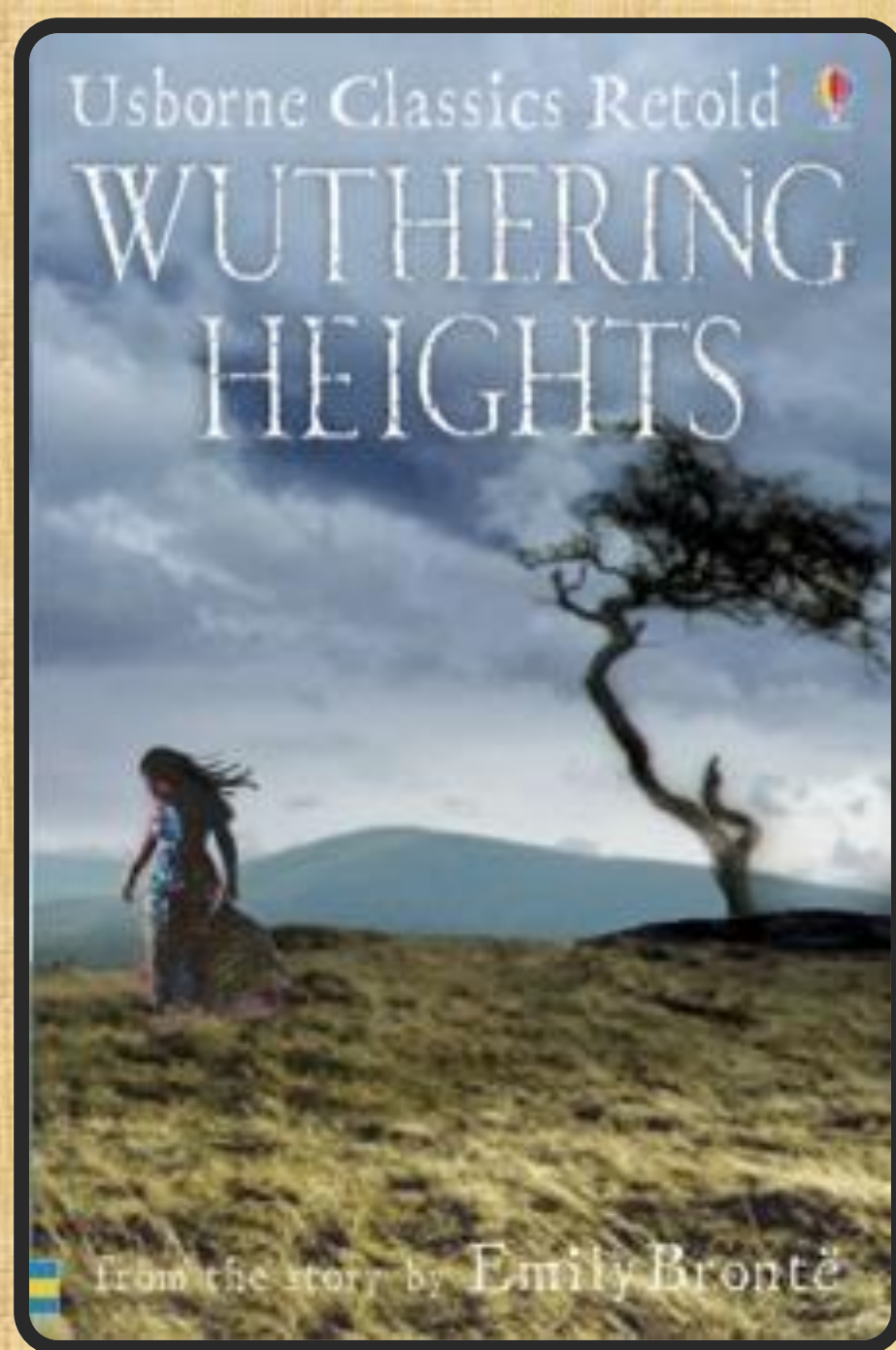


Emily Brontë (1818-1848)



Best known for her only novel,
“*Wuthering Heights*”, and a
collection of surviving poems, she
remains one of the most intensely
original and passionate voices in
English literature

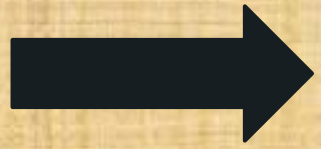
“Wuthering Heights”
1847



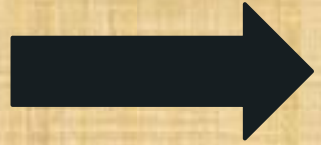
George Eliot (1819-1880)



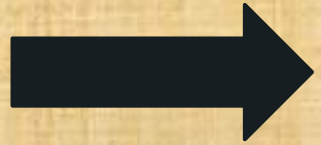
George Eliot
=
Mary Ann Evans



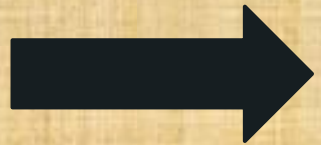
English novelist




Journalist



translator



one of the leading writers of the
Victorian era



the author of 7 novels,
including

Adam Bede (1859),
The Mill on the Floss (1860),
Silas Marner (1861),
Middlemarch (1871-72)
Daniel Deronda (1876)

most of her novels are



- 1) set in provincial England
- 2) known for their realism and psychological insight

She used a male pen name...



Why?

1) to ensure her works would be taken seriously

(female authors were published under their own names during Eliot's life, but she wanted to escape the stereotype of women only writing lighthearted romances)

2) to have her fiction judged separately from her already extensive and widely known work as an editor and critic

3) to shield her private life from public and to prevent scandals attending her relationship with the married George Henry Lewes, with whom she lived for over 20 years

!!!!

**Her work “*Middlemarch*” (1872)
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**Her work “*Middlemarch*” (1872)
was described
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as the greatest novel in the English
language**

was the third child of Robert Evans (1773-1849) and Christiana Evans (née Pearson, 1788-1836), the daughter of a local farmer

father

Robert Evans, of Welsh ancestry, was the manager of the Arbury Hall Estate for the Newdigate family in Warwickshire

mother

and Mary Ann was born on the estate at South Farm

**In early 1820 the
family moved to a
house named Griff,
between Nuneaton and
Bedworth**

**The young
Evans was
obviously
intelligent and
a voracious
reader**





she was not considered physically beautiful and thus not thought to have much chance of marriage, and because of her intelligence, her father invested in an education not often afforded women

she was forced to leave school at the age of 16, when her mother died in early 1836

Her father continued to indulge her love of learning, purchasing books for her and helping her to learn German and Italian

In 1841, her father moved the family to the larger town of Foleshill, where Mary Anne met Charles and Cara Bray, who would become good friends of hers

Through the Brays, she was introduced to Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Anne soon, however, became very self-conscious about her unconventionality among this group of friends.

She also began to renounce her faith in Christianity



distance between Mary Anne and her father

They reconciled for the most part, and

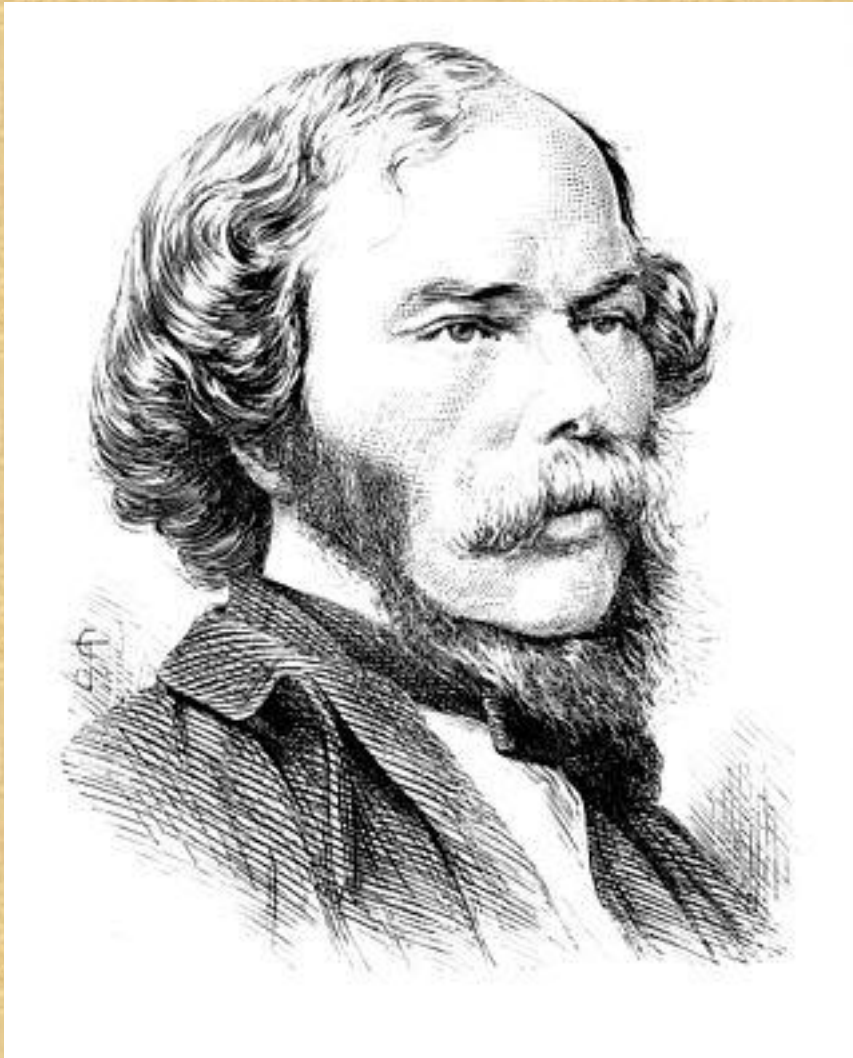
She cared for her father closely when he became ill in 1847 until his death in 1849

Through the Brays, she met John Chapman, a publisher and bookseller from London.

They became good friends, and he asked Mary Anne to become the behind-the-scenes editor for the Westminster Review.

In 1851, Mary Anne met George Henry Lewes, and the pair became romantically involved.

!!!! Though Lewes was already married, he and his wife had been separated for some years and his wife was living with another man, with whom she had three children

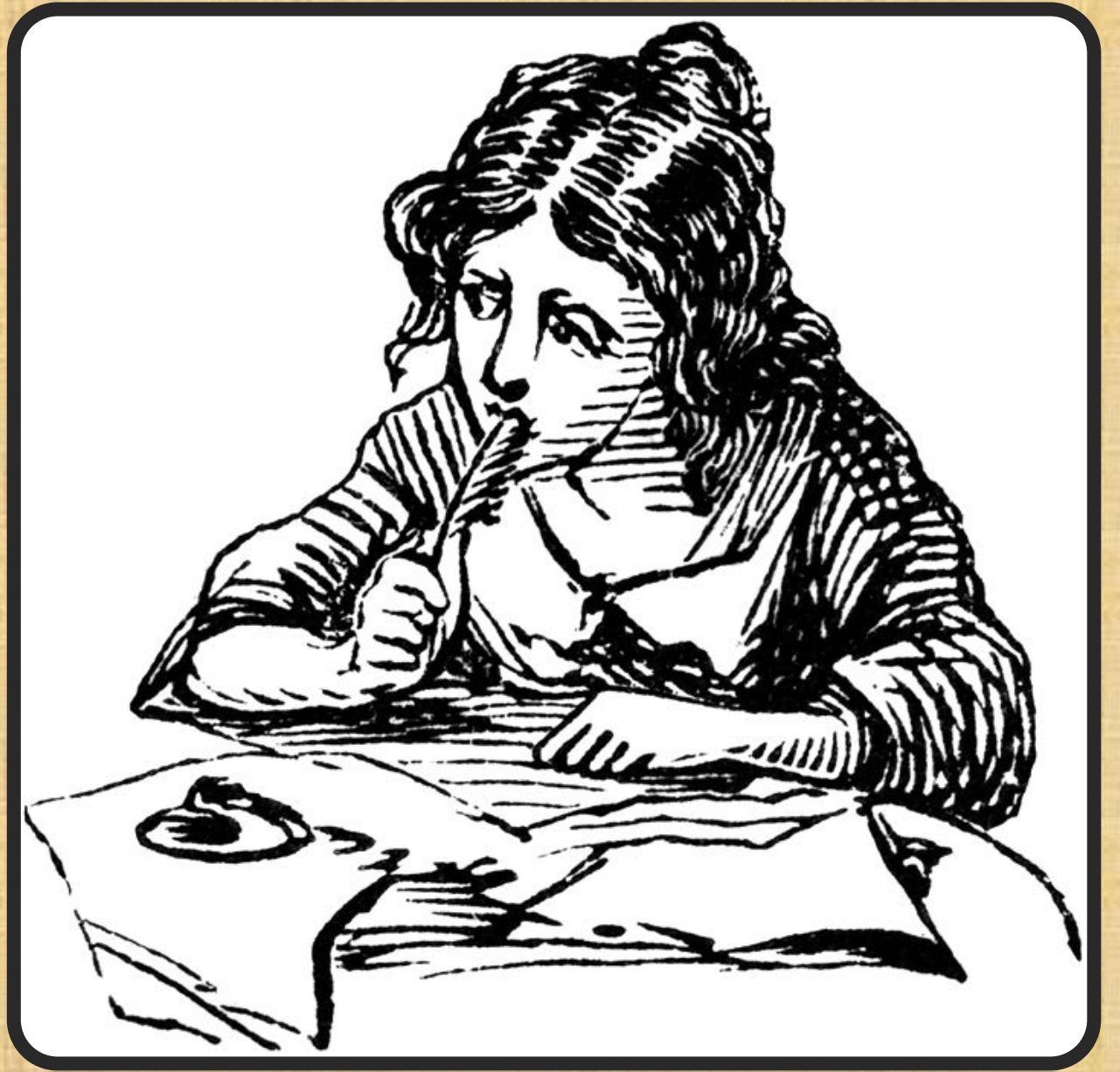


They decided to try living together abroad first, so in 1854 they traveled to Germany together.

They returned to England in 1855, and Mary Anne remained separate from Lewes until his wife declared that she had no intention of ever reuniting with him.

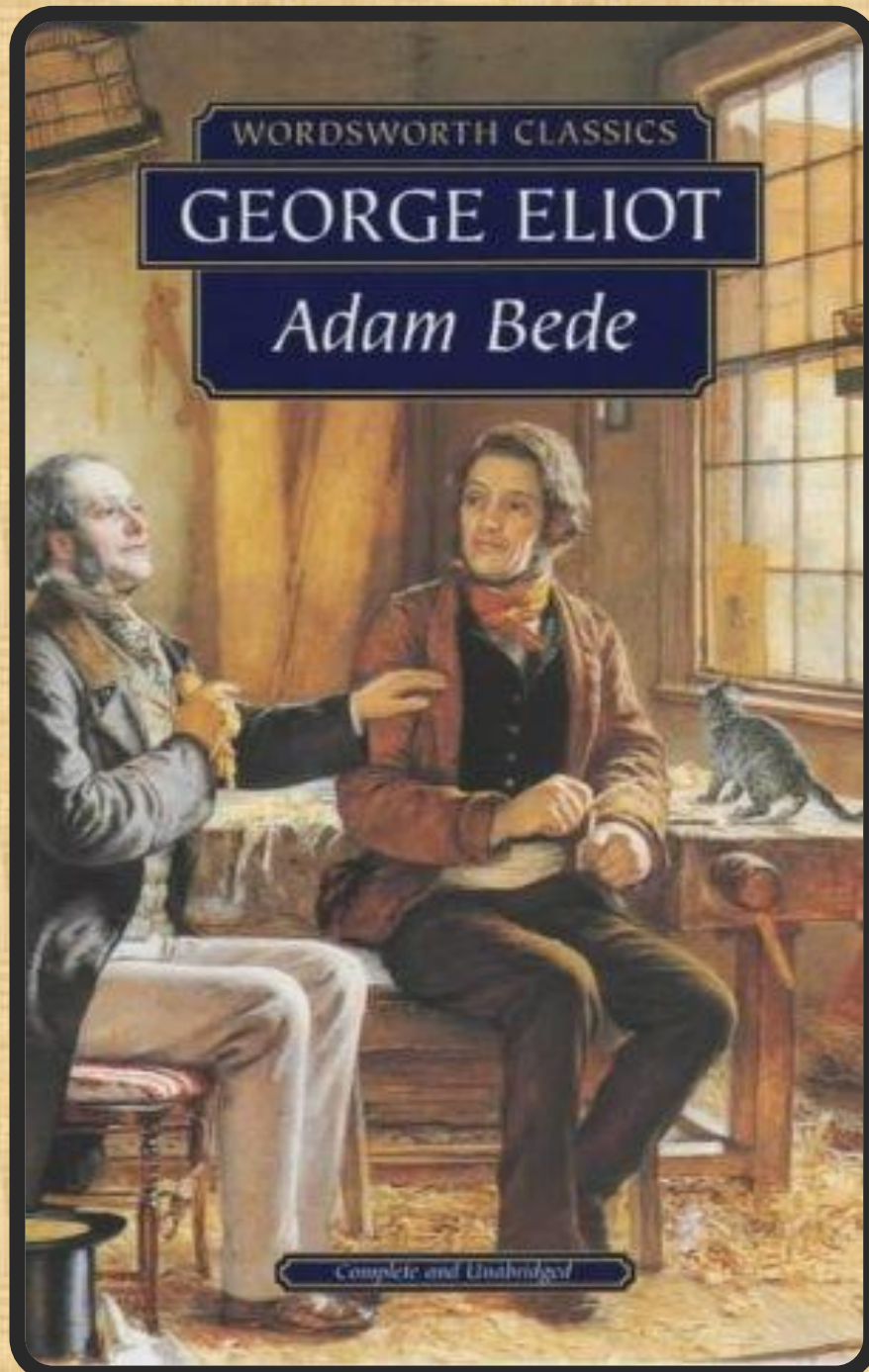
After this, Mary Anne moved in with Lewes in London, and insisted on being called Mrs. Lewes, which caused great scandal and her general isolation from society

**Mary Anne Evans's
transformation
into the fiction
writer George Eliot
began in 1856**



In 1858, George Eliot's second novel, "*Adam Bede*", became a critical and popular success;

soon after, George Eliot's identity as Mary Anne "*Lewes*" became known



Encouraged by her success, Eliot began exploring continental and political themes

Mary Anne began writing
Middlemarch in 1869.

The novel was serialized through
1871 and 1872, and became a great
success, making George Eliot (and
Mary Anne) even more famous

By this time, public sentiment had begun to soften toward Mary Anne.

George Lewes and Mary Anne became very social and popular as her writing continued to make a great deal of money for the couple

They continued living together until 1878, when Lewes suddenly became ill.

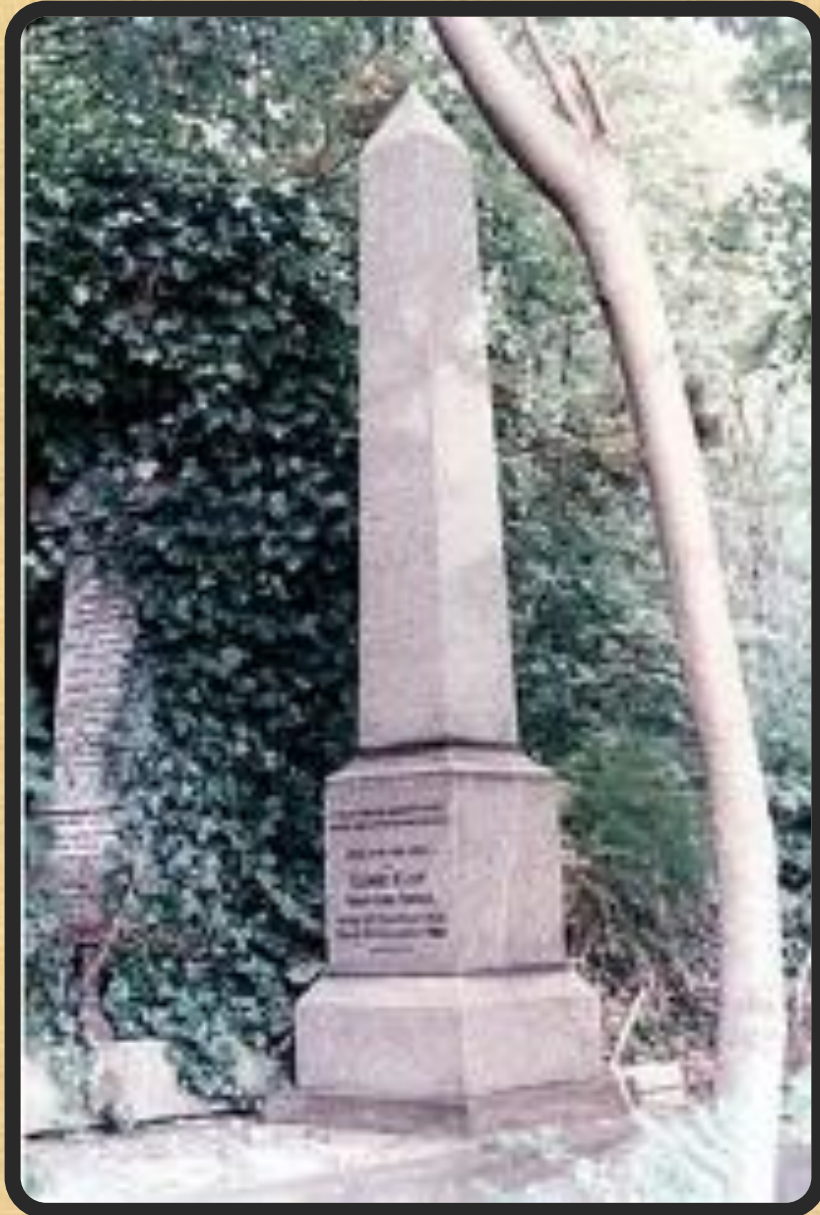
Lewes's death in November of 1878 was heartbreaking for the writer, and she began a period of intense mourning that lasted more than a year.



John Cross, the couple's "business manager" of sorts, became very concerned about Mary Anne's well-being during this trying period.

He proposed marriage to her several times until she finally accepted in 1880

John Cross was more than 20 years younger than Mary Anne, who turned 61 soon after their marriage



In December 1880, after only seven months of marriage, Mary Anne became seriously ill. She passed away in her sleep on December 22, 1880, and was buried next to her lifelong companion, George Lewes.

