

# ELECTRA:

▲

BELLES LETTRES MONTHLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

MAY, 1883, TO MAY, 1884.

"The shades of night were falling fast,  
As through an Alpine village passed  
A youth who bore through snow and ice  
A banner with this strange device,  
*EXCELSIOR!*"

EDITED BY

ANNIE E. WILSON AND ISABELLA M. LEYBURN.

PUBLISHED BY ISABELLA M. LEYBURN.

PRINTED BY THE COURIER-JOURNAL JOB PRINTING COMPANY.

# ELECTRA:

A BELLES LETTRES MONTHLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

VOL. I.

JULY, 1883.

No. 3.

## SIR EDWIN LANDSEER.

FROM MISS THACKERAY'S SKETCH.

When he was a very little boy Edwin Landseer used to ask his mother to set him a copy to draw from, and then—so his sisters have told me—complain that she always drew one of two things, either a shoe or a currant-pudding, of both of which he was quite tired. When he was a little older he went to his father and asked him for teaching. The father was a wise man and told his son that he could not himself teach him to be a painter. Nature was the only school, observation the true and only teacher. He told little Edwin to use his own powers; to think about all the things he saw; to copy every thing; and then he turned the boy out with his brothers to draw the world as it then existed upon Hampstead Heath. Their elder sister used to go with them, a young mentor, and one can imagine the little party buoyant, active, in the full delightful spring of early youth.

When I last saw Sir Edwin Landseer something of this indescribable youthful brightness still seemed to be with him. Little Edwin painted a picture in these very early days, which was afterward sold. It was called the "Mischief-makers"; a mischievous boy had tied a log of wood to the tail of a mischievous donkey.

VOL. I, No. 3—8.

When he was thirteen he exhibited the portrait of a pointer and puppy, and also the portrait of Mr. Simpson's mule, "by Master E. Landseer," as mentioned in the catalogue. His first real success was a picture called "Fighting Dogs getting Wind," in 1817.

When Sir Edwin gave up etching it was Thomas Landseer, his brother, who engraved his pictures and did them such full justice.

There is a pretty little paragraph in Leslie's autobiography about Landseer after he became a student at the Royal Academy. "Edwin Landseer," he says, "who entered the Academy very early, was a pretty little curly-headed boy, and he attracted Fuseli's attention by his talents and gentle manners. Fuseli would look around for him and say, Where is my 'little *dog-boy*.'" The little *dog-boy* was then about nineteen years old. When he was ready to set up in life for himself he hired a tiny little cottage with a studio, in St. John's Wood, and had his sister, Mrs. Mackenzie, for his house-keeper. In those days it must have been almost a country place. There, before the great eddying wave of life and popularity had reached the quiet place.

Marie, of Wurtemberg, achieved a triumph over difficulties that was truly extraordinary, and which entitled her to be ranked among the artists of genius. She was brought up under the supervision of the queen and Madame de Mallet, both women of very contracted ideas and strong prejudices. The artist, Ary Scheffer, was instructor of the royal children in painting, and gave the princess her first, and, indeed, her only lessons and assistance in sculpture, although an art in which she was equally unpracticed with herself. She had only executed two or three pieces when the king ordered of Pradin, the most renowned artist in statuary of that day, a monumental figure of Joan of Arc, for the museum of Versailles. Pradin failed to produce a statue that satisfied either the king or himself. The king then re-

quested his daughter to undertake the commission, and she immediately set to work and modeled her figure in wax. In a wonderfully short time, considering the difficulties in the way of her accomplishing her work, the celebrated figure of "Joan of Arc watching by her armor," came from her hands, a glorious success, and was pronounced the finest modern statue in Versailles. It was received with the wildest applause by the soldiers. After so flattering and encouraging a success she gave herself up so entirely to her work that her health soon failed, and she only lived to complete six or eight statues, the most celebrated of which are, "The Peri bearing the tears of the repentant sinner to the foot of the throne of grace," "The angel at the gates of heaven," and the "Pilgrim," from Schiller.

---

GREENWAY COURT.

AN OLD DOMINION BALLAD—A.D. 1748.

BY MARGARET J. PRESTON.

Lord Fairfax sat before the fire  
 Within his forest hall,  
 Where antlers wide on every side  
 Hung branching from the wall.

Around the casements howled the wind,  
 The snow was falling deep,  
 And at his feet, couched in the heat,  
 His stag-hounds lay asleep.

They heard a horse's hoofs without,  
 Above the wintry roar,  
 And with a bay they sprang away  
 To guard the opening door.

And if their master had not chid  
 With instant word and frown,  
 They quick had met, with fierce onset,  
 The guest, and had him down.

“Shame! Shame! Prince Charles!” Lord Fairfax cried:  
 “Off, Berkeley!—With such sport  
 No friend, I trow, we welcome so  
 Who comes to Greenway Court.”

He eyed the stripling, straight and tall;  
 He marked his stalwart frame;  
 And with a rare and knightly air,  
 He questioned of his name.

“Why, you are but a lad,” he said;  
 “And wherefore should you roam  
 So far away, this wintry day,  
 From all the sweets of home?”

“At Greenway Court I dwell alone,  
 A soured and weary man;  
 With leave to find, far from my kind,  
 Such pleasures as I can.

“But you, why break away so soon  
 From all home-bringing joy,  
 To do the work a man might shirk,  
 While you are such a boy?”

“Yes, I have acres without count,  
 That needs but be surveyed;  
 But what can you, a stripling, do,  
 With none beside to aid?”

The boy's blue eyes shot steel-like clear,  
 And from his forehead fair,  
 Fresh with the sheen of scarce sixteen,  
 He shook the Saxon hair.

“I'm a widow's son,” he said,  
 (Proud was his look and tone);  
 “The staff and stay, you'll let me say,  
 My mother loves to own.

“With rod and chain I mean to walk  
 The wilds without a dread;  
 God's care, I'm sure, will keep secure  
 The boy who wins his bread.”

“Aye, will He so!” Lord Fairfax cried;  
 “And ere my days are done,  
 God wot, I'll hear some word of cheer  
 About this widow's son.

“ But now forget your rod and chain,  
 For on the morrow morn  
 We'll be away by dawn of day  
 With huntsman, hound, and horn.

“ What! ‘*Know no woodcraft! Never brought  
 A pair of antlers down?*’  
 Is that the way they rear to-day  
 The lads within the town?

“ As sure as Shenandoah flows  
 In front of Greenway Court,  
 I promise you a buck or two  
 Shall grace your maiden sport.”

---

The Christmas hunt was o'er. The hearth  
 Blazed bright with knots of pine,  
 And host and guest, with whetted zest,  
 Before it supped their wine.

“ Right merry sport we've had to-day ;  
 And now if any bid  
 Tell who (he laughed) taught you woodcraft,  
 Why, say ‘ Lord Fairfax did.’ ”

He called a huntsman: “ Saddle Duke  
 Without a moment's loss,  
 And lift and lay, as best you may,  
 That biggest buck across;

“ And straight to Alexandria ride,  
 And say, that *George, her son,*  
*Sends his day's sport from Greenway Court  
 To Mistress Washington!* ”\*

---

\*Thomas, Lord Fairfax, after a love disappointment that embittered his life, retired to his boundless acres on the Shenandoah, and there built “ Greenway Court,” where he lived in rude baronial style for many years. He was always proud to say that he had taught George Washington, when a lad, to hunt.

THERE is a jewel which no Indian mine can buy,  
 No chemic art can counterfeit ;  
 It makes men rich in greatest poverty,  
 Makes water wine, turns wooden cups to gold,  
 The homely whistle to sweet music's strain ;  
 Seldom it comes—to few from heaven sent—  
 That much in little—all in naught—content.

—*Wilbye (Madrigal).*

# INDEX TO VOL. I.

	PAGE.
A Chapter on Rings. By Pamela McA. Cole . . . . .	414
A City in Two Hemispheres. <i>Youths' Companion</i> . . . . .	258
A Dream. <i>Brainard's Musical Monthly</i> . . . . .	627
A Glimpse of the Bad Lands. Letters to My Nieces, No. III: by Edmund M. Vittum . . . . .	471
A Grecian Musical Festival. By George Upton: <i>Brainard's Musical World</i> . . . . .	303
A Little After Christmas Story. By E. G. . . . .	561
A Morning with Rosa Bonheur. Selected . . . . .	445
A Royal Poet—James I. of Scotland. Washington Irving . . . . .	501
A Short Story, Sad and Authentic. By Et Girard . . . . .	620
A Sketch. By Mary Y. Hogan . . . . .	632
A Strange Country. By Edmund M. Vittum . . . . .	250
A Trip to the Moon. By Polly Cabell . . . . .	609
A Trip up the St. John's. By Kenneth Campbell . . . . .	235
A Useful Tree. By J. K. Bloomfield . . . . .	557
A Visit to the Great Wall of China. By Miss A. E. Safford . . . . .	658
A Walpurgisnight. Translated from the German of E. Vely, by H. de la Ronde . . . . .	3, 78, 109
An English Maiden. By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	236
An Old-time Precursor of the Modern Reporter. By Thornton Macaulay: <i>Baldwin's Monthly</i> . . . . .	451
An Oriental Wedding. <i>Philadelphia Press</i> . . . . .	63
Alexander Coumoundouros. From our Athens Correspondent, F. D. K. . . . .	286
Among the Berkshires. By Henry B. Corey . . . . .	365
Arthur of Brittany. Miss Yonge's Cameos of English History . . . . .	131
Atolls. By Rev. T. D. Witherspoon, D. D. . . . .	273
Battle in the Laboratory. By Two School Girls: <i>Hamptonian</i> . . . . .	119
Caernarvon Castle. Selected . . . . .	379
Castles on the Rhine. By Rev. John Leyburn, D. D. . . . .	197
Charles Linnæus. By Halo . . . . .	610
Conversation. Cowper . . . . .	52
Dress and Clothes in the Thirteenth Century. <i>The Penny Magazine</i> . . . . .	252
Dust Falls. By Rev. T. D. Witherspoon, D. D. . . . .	118
Earls of March. By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	562
Easter Eggs—A Legend of the Eastern Church. By Iota . . . . .	701
Fall of Hungary. By Et Girard . . . . .	549
Feliza. Translated from the French of Marie Lionnet, by H. de la Ronde . . . . .	621, 677
First Fruits. By Rev. T. D. Witherspoon, D. D. . . . .	661
From Strength to Strength. By Alice King: <i>The Girls' Own Paper</i> . . . . .	31, 67, 121, 174, 242, 288, 342, 430, 474, 550, 612
Gaspar Hauser. By Halo . . . . .	538
Giotto. By Ray Montgomery . . . . .	499
Glimpses of an English Song Bird. By E. P. P. Allan . . . . .	217
Golden Rod. By Helen F. Moore . . . . .	164
Grandmother's Random Recollections. By Mrs. Flora Byrne . . . . .	308, 485
Greek Superstitions Regarding Diseases. By M. K. . . . .	640
Half an Hour in Constantinople. By Iota . . . . .	161
Halloween. By Elizabeth B. Sayres . . . . .	280
Harry Push on his Way Around the World. By Isabella M. Leyburn . . . . .	21, 83, 136, 184, 231, 312, 367, 447, 496, 570, 695
"Ich Dien." By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	375
Into the Light. By Abby Eldredge . . . . .	488, 540, 599, 667
Janie Moore's Best Christmas-Gift. By Ray Montgomery . . . . .	440
John Howard Payne. Condensed from the <i>Courier-Journal</i> . . . . .	127
Kenilworth Castle. <i>The Penny Magazine</i> . . . . .	241
Kublai, Great Khan of the Tartars and Emperor of China. <i>Marco Polo's Travels</i> . . . . .	688

INDEX.

	PAGE.
Led by a Child. <i>The Girls' Own Paper</i> . . . . .	277
Leonardo da Vinci. By Ray Montgomery . . . . .	672
Letitia Elizabeth Landon (L. E. L.). By Mrs. Anna W. Young . . . . .	565
Letters from the Orient. By J. R. S. Sterrett, Ph. D. . . . .	89, 141
Loiterings in the Footprints of Luther. By Rev. John Leyburn, D. D. . . . .	337
Louis VII. of France. By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	73
Luther. By James Anthony Froude: <i>Eclectic Magazine</i> . . . . .	380, 406
Margaret of Lancaster. By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	683
Matilda Atheling, Wife of Henry I. of England. By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	8
"Monteagle." By Rev. E. E. Bigger . . . . .	593
Negro Aphorisms. <i>Century</i> . . . . .	349
Old Travelers. <i>The Penny Magazine</i> . . . . .	418, 507, 559, 617
Origin of the Phillipine. Translated from the German of Gustav Freytag: By E. G. K. . . . .	436
Parlez vous Francais. <i>The Girls' Own Paper</i> . . . . .	189
Peeps into a Royal Family. By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	282
Raphael. By Ray Montgomery . . . . .	190
Remarkable Preservation of a Bible. By Gen. Richard E. Vaughn . . . . .	641
Rembrandt. By June English . . . . .	253
Richard, Duke of York. By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	628
Rio de Janeiro. Rev. D. M. Hazlette . . . . .	693
Saint Cloud. By M. G. Duff . . . . .	193
Saunterings about Monticello. By William T. Price . . . . .	529
Signs and Omens. By Helen F. Moore . . . . .	421
Sir Edward Landseer. From Miss Thackeray's Sketch: <i>Cornhill Magazine (Littell)</i> . . . . .	105
Swallows' Nests. By E. G. . . . .	439
Tasso. <i>The Penny Magazine</i> . . . . .	373
Teunyson's Dream of Fair Women. By Mrs. Alice Harris Smith . . . . .	634
The Early Female Sculptors. By Stereo . . . . .	114
The Eastern Bazar. <i>Palia Chronia</i> . . . . .	663
The Emperor of China. From an English Paper published in China . . . . .	638
The Esthetic Craze. By Cheveux Gris . . . . .	403
The Frog King. By Elizabeth B. Sayres . . . . .	248
The Frontier of To-day. Letters to My Nieces, No. II: Edmund M. Vittum . . . . .	427
The Girl at Number Ten. By Rose Hartwick Thorpe . . . . .	317
The Homeless Poet. By Isabella M. Leyburn . . . . .	49
The Host of Sunny Side. By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	26
The Mountain Top. An Allegory: <i>The Girls' Own Paper</i> . . . . .	16
The Narrowest House in the World. <i>New York Evening Post</i> . . . . .	191
The Ocklawaha. or "Crooked Water." By Kenneth Campbell . . . . .	481
The Origin of Great Men. From Samuel Smiles: <i>Self Help</i> . . . . .	295
The Prize Story. By Iota . . . . .	465
The Rival Physicians. By Miss Anna Dick . . . . .	357
The Seventh Daughter. By Benjamin Blythe . . . . .	223
The Toilet of the Fly. Selected . . . . .	182
The Truant. Washington Irving . . . . .	28
Three German Duels. By F. P. V. . . . .	604
Three Scottish Princes. By Annie E. Wilson . . . . .	171
Visit to Old South Church. By Fred. Myron Colby: <i>Our World</i> . . . . .	181
Vision of Hellas. Translated from the Greek of Miss A. G. Pappadopoulos, by Rev. W. Andrews, D. D., Canon of Peterborough, England . . . . .	350
Volcano in Iceland. <i>The Penny Magazine</i> . . . . .	598
Wedding Presents in China. By Belle S. Lockett . . . . .	311
Wild Flowers of Montana. <i>Century</i> . . . . .	192
Will's Sister. By Sophie May . . . . .	534
Woman and the Bible. By Rev. Geo. L. Leyburn . . . . .	545
Woman's Work. By Mrs. Marion McBride, of the <i>Boston Post</i> . . . . .	355, 494
Women Here and There. By Rev. Geo. L. Leyburn . . . . .	256
Wyckliffe. By Iota . . . . .	310

INDEX.

POETRY.

A Bird's Song. By May M. Anderson . . . . .	341
April. By General W. O. Butler . . . . .	657
Calling the Cows. By May M. Anderson . . . . .	107
Celebrities. By Anna S. Reed . . . . .	276
Change. By Mrs. M. J. Smith . . . . .	231
For the Love of God. By Margaret J. Preston . . . . .	439
Girlhood. Selected . . . . .	405
Grandmother's Love Letters . . . . .	685
Greenway Court. By Margaret J. Preston . . . . .	115
Guess. By Mrs. Georgianna Lee . . . . .	702
Heart's Ease. By Ingomar . . . . .	480
Home, Sweet Home . . . . .	130
Jesse and Colin. Crabbe . . . . .	54
Let Your Love be Spoken. By Kenneth Campbell . . . . .	285
Lost, a Boy. By Eben E. Rexford: <i>Youth's Companion</i> . . . . .	196
Maid of Isla. <i>Surf and Wave</i> . . . . .	312
Meeting at Night. <i>Surf and Wave</i> . . . . .	240
Milton's Last Poem. A mistake—not by Milton . . . . .	603
My Resting Place. By Mrs. M. J. Smith . . . . .	348
My Rights. Susan Coolidge . . . . .	548
October. By Rose Hartwick Thorpe . . . . .	273
Omar Pasha and the Two Arab Girls. By J. M. Tydings . . . . .	299
Over and Over Again. Selected . . . . .	77
Sampson. Chaucer . . . . .	372
Sea-Shell. Landor, Wordsworth, Byron . . . . .	30
Sir Henry's Cat. By Mrs. Lucy Randolph Fleming . . . . .	675
Six Years Old. By May M. Anderson . . . . .	558
Some Day. By May M. Anderson . . . . .	228
Song to the Birds. By K. C. . . . .	493
Song of the Lighthouse Girl. By Sigma . . . . .	611
Sunset Pictures. By Kenneth Campbell . . . . .	691
The Cantab. Cowper . . . . .	202
The Child and the Bird. By J. McD. G. . . . .	15
The December Twilights. Letters to My Nieces No. IV; Edmund M. Vittum . . . . .	596
The Deserted Garden. Mrs. Browning . . . . .	220
The Isles of Greece. Byron . . . . .	140
The Kept Promise. By Margaret J. Preston . . . . .	294
The New Eva. From the German. By G. T. Berg . . . . .	401
The Raindrop's Fate. By Margaret J. Preston . . . . .	7
The Rosy Vandal. Bret Harle: Selected . . . . .	183
The Sea. By Barry Cornwall: <i>Surf and Wave</i> . . . . .	163
The Snail. Cowper . . . . .	51
The Soul's Expression. Mrs. Browning . . . . .	147
The Young Ladies' New Year's Toilet. Selected . . . . .	470
To-morrow. By H. J. Stockard . . . . .	465
"To Present You Faultless." By Mrs. Herrick Johnson . . . . .	169
Under the Gas. By Merle Murrie . . . . .	639
Winter. Cowper . . . . .	529

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

Home Sunlight . . . . .	42, 97, 151, 207, 262, 325, 387, 456, 511, 575, 642, 703
Reading Club . . . . .	40, 96, 149, 205, 259, 323, 386, 454, 518, 579, 645, 706
Book Notices. Literary Notes . . . . .	97, 150, 206, 260, 324, 455, 520, 581, 646, 707
Scrap Book . . . . .	44, 99, 153, 209, 264, 326, 390, 457, 521, 582, 647, 708
Glimpses Into Nature. Brief Notes on Flowers, Birds, and Insects. By M. P. P. H. . . . .	*465, 327, 392, 584, 649
Bits of Science . . . . .	101, 155, 211, 329, 394, 459, 522, 586, 710
Graphæion . . . . .	37, 94, 148, 203, 467, 331, 395, 461, 523, 588, 652, 712
Current History . . . . .	45, 102, 156, 212, 469, 333, 397, 463, 525, 590, 654, 714

Should read \*265, †267, ‡269.