

Ken Spelman Books Ltd - ABA, PBFA, ILAB.

Women, Botany & Science

Books & manuscripts written by or relating to women botanists, naturalists & scientists.

"It is as a woman, that I enjoy my triumph for as regards my own proper self, I like to creep in a corner and be quiet; but to raise my whole sex, and with it the world, is an object worth fagging for. Heart and hand to the work!"

Caroline Frances Cornwallis.

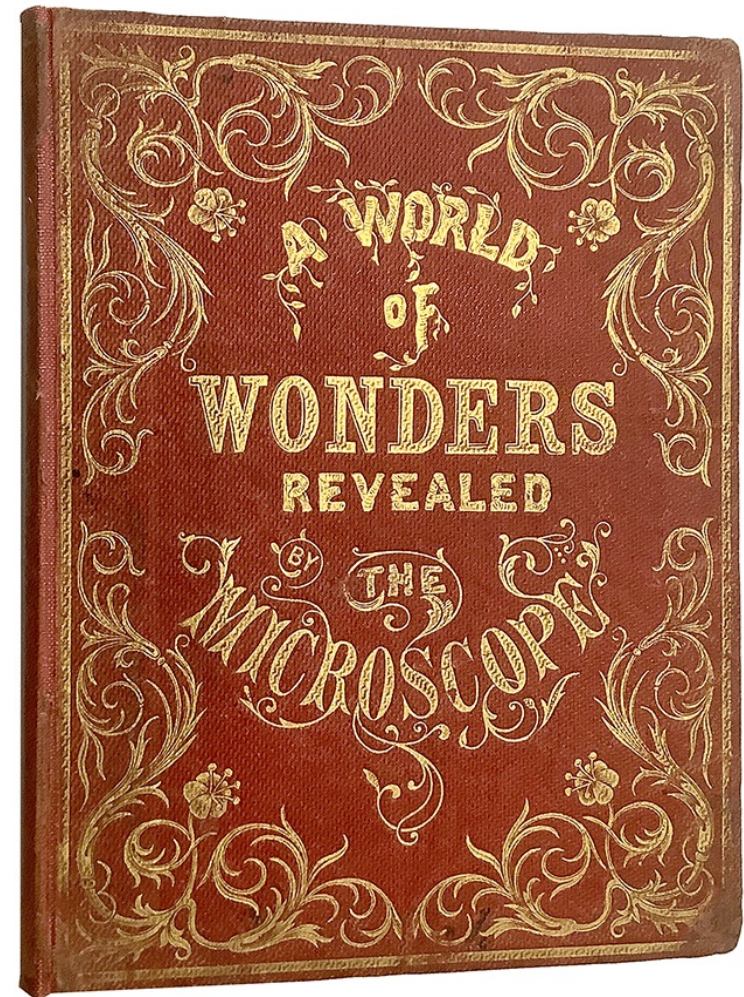
Part Three: R-Z

Catalogue 132

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September 2025



“In March 1860, Thomas Henry Huxley FRS, famed as "Darwin's bulldog", wrote privately to his friend, the great geologist Charles Lyell FRS:

"Five-sixths of women will stop in the doll stage of evolution, to be the stronghold of parsonism, the drag on civilisation, the degradation of every important pursuit in which they mix themselves – intrigues in politics and friponnes in science."

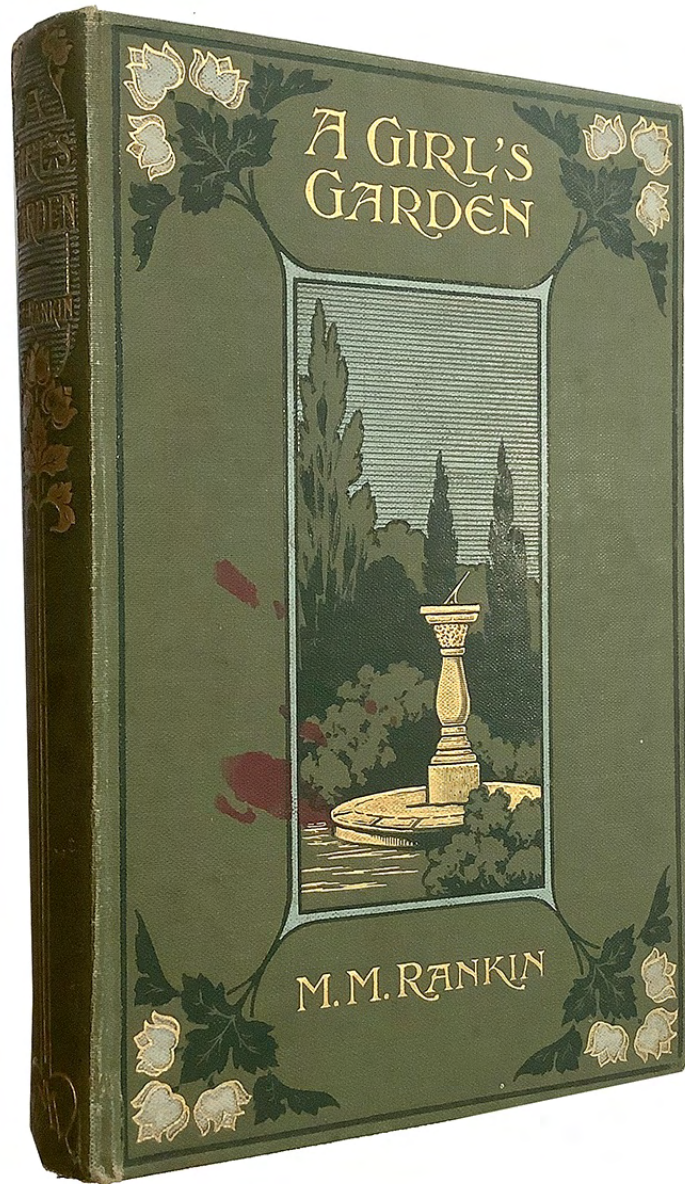
This can be taken as typical of certain Victorian assumptions, including the idea that physiologically the female brain simply could not cope with mathematics, experimental proofs or laboratory procedures. Certainly compared with their literary sisters, the scientific women of the 19th century still appear invisible, if not actually non-existent.”

[Richard Holmes]. *The Lost Women of Victorian Science*.

This is the third in our recent series of catalogues relating to Women, Botany, and Science.

Part I: [Woman, Botany, and Science A-H](#)

Part II: [Woman, Botany, and Science J-P](#)

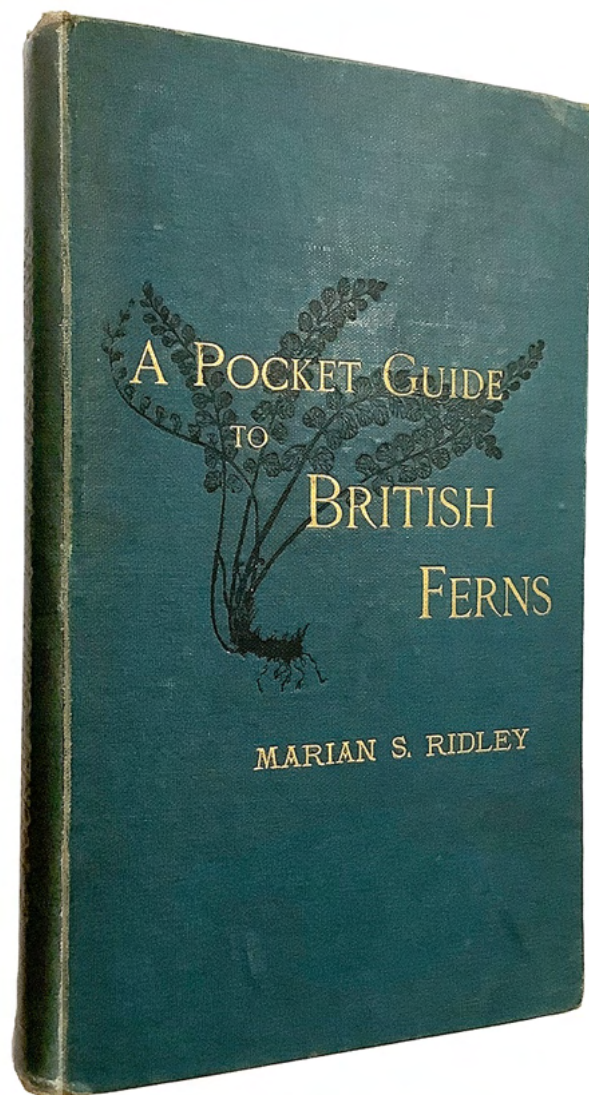


104. RANKIN, Margaret M. *A Girl's Garden*. First edition. ix, [1], 104, [4]pp adverts., half-title., decorative title-page printed in red and green within a green compartment., 14 half-tone plates. Some foxing but a good copy in bright original decorative cloth, top-edge-gilt, other edges uncut. Some marks to upper cover. Scarce.

small 8vo. Andrew Melrose. 1905.

£35.00

~ "This little book... is written for girls, - girls living at home, and specially with a view to helping those in the suburbs of a large city, whose time is their own, whose gardens and whose purses are small... "



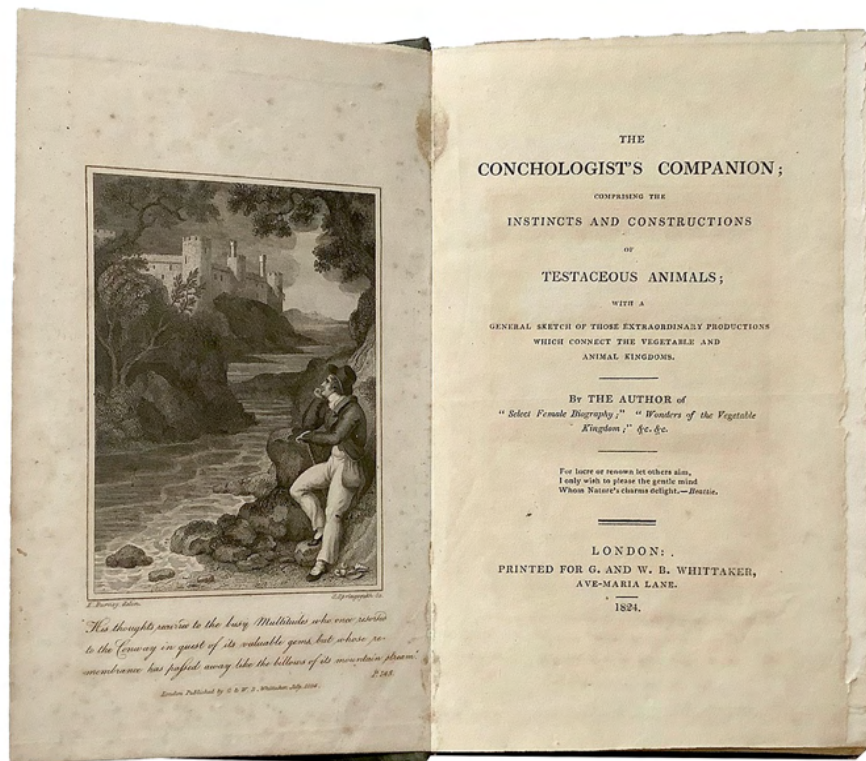
The Women's Champion:
Mrs Farquharson & Women's Struggle to Join Scientific Societies.

105. RIDLEY, Marian S. *A Pocket Guide to British Ferns*. First edition. [4], 96, [6], [2] blank, 32pp adverts. Some foxing to the title-page and contents leaf otherwise a good clean copy in original dark blue gilt lettered cloth, with a black fern on the upper board. Some rubbing to the extremities. At the end of the volume are three leaves forming 'a set of labels for the herbarium.' Very scarce.
8vo. David Bogue. 1881.

£60.00

~ Marian Farquharson (née Ridley), (1846-1912), led the fight for suitably qualified women to be able to join scientific and learned societies. When, after four years struggle, the Linnean Society agreed in 1904 to admit women Fellows, Marian was the only one rejected from the shortlist of sixteen candidates. Scientifically and socially she was well qualified to be a Fellow. Some of the successful candidates had involvement, wider than hers, in the fight for women's rights. She had powerful supporters, but her proud, forthright manner alienated others. When in 1908 she was finally offered a Fellowship, a fatal illness prevented her accepting it.

The origins of Marian's biological interests are unclear. She may have been encouraged by her father who, in 1870, was listed as a member of the newly formed Newbury and District Field Club. Marian was, by 1881, able to publish *A Pocket Guide to British Ferns* in which she acknowledged the help of Mr Britten of the British Museum and Dr Baker of Kew, both FLS, and of Dr Murie and Mr West at the Library of the Linnean Society. She felt keenly that her work would have benefited if she had had 'access to the Herbarium of Linnaeus', adding '...although I was told my election would have been easily carried, it could not be on account of my sex'.



106. [ROBERTS, Mary.]
The Conchologist's Companion;
comprising the instincts and constructions
of testaceous animals; with a general
sketch of those extraordinary productions
which connect the vegetable and animal
kingdoms. xii, 251, [1]p., half-title.,
engraved frontispiece. A good uncut copy
in original glazed linen cloth boards, with
a printed paper spine label. The spine is
faded, with slight wear to the head and
tail, and the label rubbed. A few marks
and slight bubbling to the linen cloth, and
there is some foxing to the end-papers and
paste-downs. The scarce first edition.
8vo. G. & W.B. Whittaker. 1824.

£75.00

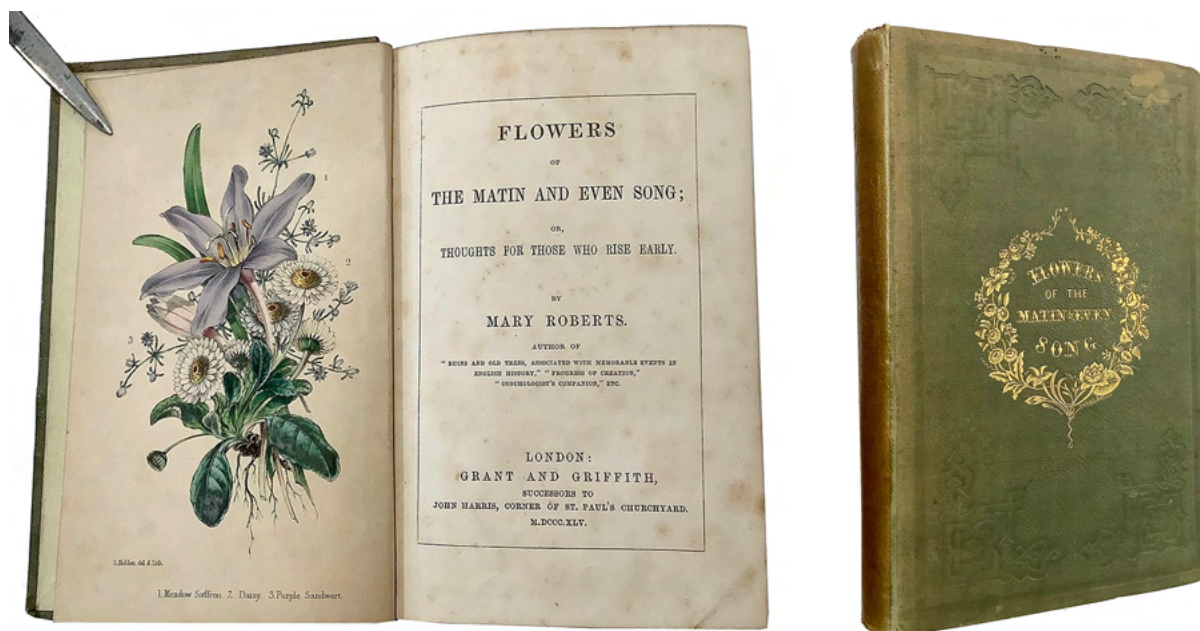
~ Little is recorded about Mary Roberts beyond her birth and death dates, (1788-1846), and titles of the dozen books she wrote. In common with most pre-Darwin scientists, she was a creationist, and provides a literal reading of God's purpose on biology. She speaks in the voice of female subservience. "It seems [God] designed to teach us by the admirable arrangement of his creatures, that the different gradations in society are designed by his providence and appointed for our good." But perhaps rebellion rides beneath Roberts's conventional surface, and another passage takes on 19th-century male dominance with very little subtlety. Anger fairly seeps through this passage: "It seems as if maternal nature delighted to baffle the wisdom of her sons. ... even in the formation of a shell, ... your arrogant pretensions are completely humbled." ref: John Lienhard, University of Houston.





107. [ROBERTS, Mary.] *The Conchologist's Companion*. vii, [3], 210, [2]pp., *hand coloured lithograph frontispiece, title-page vignette, and text engravings*. A very good clean copy in original dark green blind stamped cloth, with gilt lettered spine. Slight fading to the spine, and just a tiny amount of wear to the foot. Minor foxing to the tissue guard. 8vo. Whittaker & Co. 1834. £95.00

~ First published in 1824 with just an engraved frontispiece, this second edition was issued with a coloured frontispiece, and text engravings.

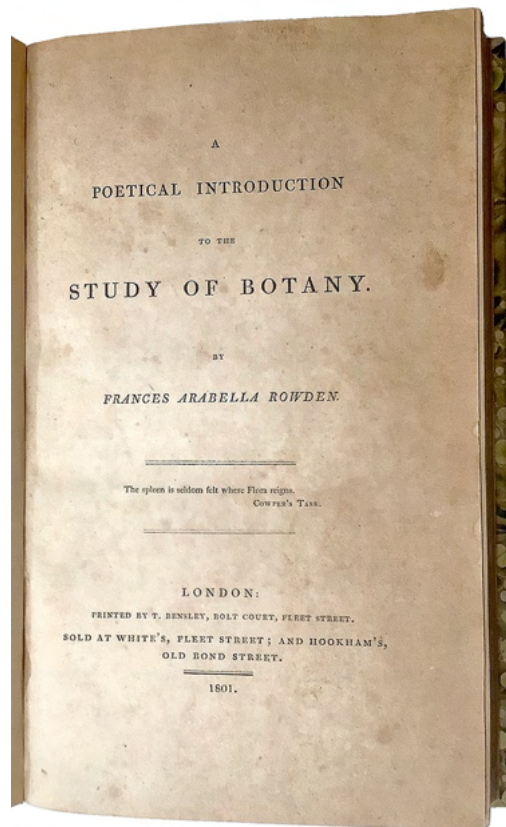


108. ROBERTS, Mary. *Flowers of the Matin and Even Song; or, Thoughts for those who Rise Early.* xvi, 192, 16pp of adverts., frontispiece and three other hand-coloured lithographs (dandelion, wood sorrel and globeflower). This work was dedicated to The Princess Royal, with the special permission of Queen Victoria. Original green gilt decorated embossed cloth, all-edges-gilt. Some slight wear to the head and tail of the spine, and fade mark to the upper board. In very good, firm condition with only minor foxing, and a small tear without loss to the front-end-paper. Inscribed on the end-paper, "Margaret Head given by Miss Fanny Patterson - March 30 - 1854." Bookseller's small label at the foot of the inner front board, 'Sold at Curson's Music Warehouse, 17, High Street, Exeter.' Scarce.

small 8vo. Grant and Griffith, successors to John Harris, Corner of St Paul's Churchyard. 1845.

£60.00

~ The work describes a selection of the most interesting of flowers which 'observe a fixed time of opening or shutting' such as the daisy, dandelion, scarlet pimpernel etc. The plates are by Samuel Holden. He was a prolific painter of exotic plants, especially orchids, in the 1830s and 1840s. Holden studied most of them in the private collections of plant enthusiasts and collectors in Great Britain, sometimes annotating his drawings with the location of his specimen. He was employed to create botanical illustrations by the Duke of Devonshire's head gardener, Joseph Paxton.



A teacher to Lady Caroline Lamb, at the school where Jane Austen had earlier been instructed.

109. ROWDEN, Frances Arabella. *A Poetical Introduction to the Study of Botany*. First edition. [16], lxxi, [1], 167, [1]p., with 8 page subscribers list (predominantly noting women), 2 tables. Bound in recent quarter calf, marbled boards. Some rather noticeable age toning to the paper.

8vo. London: printed by T. Bensley. 1801.

£95.00

~ Frances Arabella Rowden (c1780-c1840), was the daughter of a clergyman. After serving as governess in the family of Lord Bessborough, she was tutor to Mary Russell Mitford at St. Quentin's School, Hans Place, Chelsea from 1798 to 1802; Lady Caroline Lamb and Letitia Elizabeth Landon were also her pupils. Miss Rowden took over management of the school about 1809, and eventually married her former employer upon the death of his first wife.

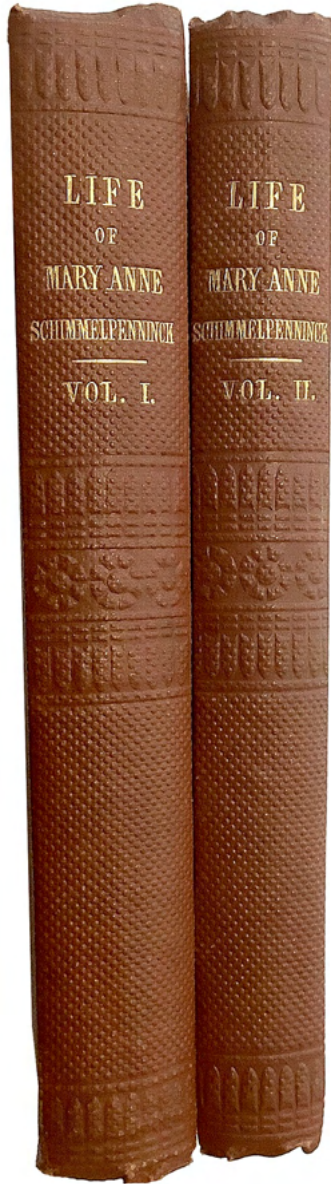
This, her first work, written whilst at Hans Place, was designed to make the study of botany acceptable to ladies, after the sexual references in the work of Erasmus Darwin had made it controversial for females. "She intended at first to select a few passages from Dr Darwin's elegant Poem of the Botanic Garden, and arrange them according to the system of Linnaeus; but finding the.... language frequently too luxuriant for the simplicity of female education, she attempted the following descriptions... "

(Preface). She avoids sexual references as much as possible, and directs attention to the moral lessons which can be derived from individual plants, "so that the improvement of the heart may keep pace with the information of the mind." For example, describing the Mimosa, Darwin depicts the plant as "chaste" an "timid" an Eastern bride "quivering as the night approaches," who soon will enter the seraglio of her lord. (Canto I, 11, pp. 255-8). By contrast, Rowden renders "pudica" as "humble," and the plant as a young maiden whose guardians "control each rising tumult of [her] erring soul ." (pp. 153-5). Emphasis falls there upon sexual suppression and not upon sexual anticipation!

St Quentin's was originally part of Reading School, and its most famous pupil was Jane Austen who attended with her sister 1785-1786. She drew on her experiences there when writing *Emma*.

"Mrs. Goddard was the mistress of a School — not of a seminary, or an establishment, or any thing which professed, in long sentences of refined nonsense, to combine liberal acquirements with elegant morality upon new principles and new systems — and where young ladies for enormous pay might be screwed out of health and into vanity — but a real, honest, old-fashioned Boarding-school, where a reasonable quantity of accomplishments were sold at a reasonable price, and where girls might be sent to be out of the way and scramble themselves into a little education, without any danger of coming back prodigies. Mrs. Goddard's school was in high repute — and very deservedly; for Highbury was reckoned a particularly healthy spot: she had an ample house and garden, gave the children plenty of wholesome food, let them run about a great deal in the summer, and in winter dressed their chilblains with her own hands. It was no wonder that a train of twenty young couple now walked after her to church. She was a plain, motherly kind of woman, who had worked hard in her youth, and now thought herself entitled to the occasional holiday of a tea-visit." [*Emma*, Chapter Three].

A couple of years later, the St Quintins opened another school, this time in the capital, at 22 Hans Place. This garden square address, in the desirable West End of London, was made possible by their former pupil Mrs Sherwood selling a novel. The St Quintins employed Frances Arabella Rowden who had been a parlour boarder with them in Reading when she was 16. Rowden's mother kept a school at Henley-on-Thames, at which Mary Wollstonecraft's sister Everina worked briefly. Rowden was an engaging teacher, with a particular enthusiasm for the theatre, and as private tutor to Mary Russell Mitford, she was able to indulge her fondness for the Kemble family of actors. Rowden was not only a poet, but, according to Mitford, "she had a knack of making poetesses of her pupils". Some of the girls she taught at the Hans Place school included Caroline Ponsonby, who wrote *Glenarvon* following her affair with Lord Byron; the poet Letitia Elizabeth Landon ("L.E.L."); Emma Roberts, the travel writer; Anna Maria Fielding, who published as S.C. Hall; and Rosina Doyle Wheeler, who married Edward Bulwer-Lytton and published her many novels as Rosina Bulwer Lytton. Curiously, Jane Austen's brother Henry moved into number 23 in 1814, so on her visits to London, she stayed next door to her old school.



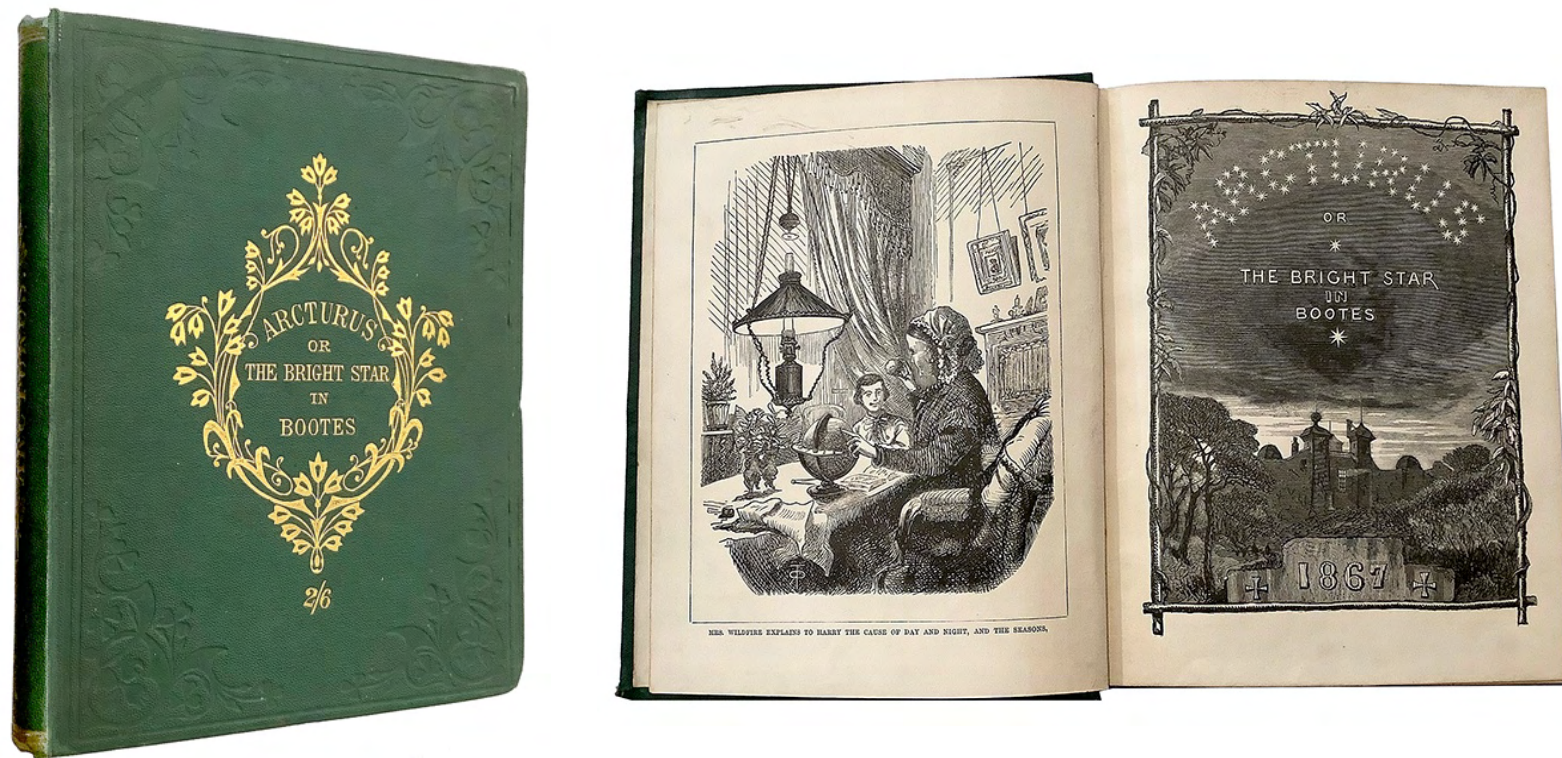
A fine copy in original cloth, read by Sarah Hornby, of Dalton Hall shortly after its publication.

110. SCHIMMELPENNINCK, Mary Anne, [née Galton]. *The Life of Mary Anne Schimmelpenninck*. Edited by her relation Christiana C. Hankin. In Two Volumes. First edition. *Vol I. Autobiography. Vol II. Biographical Sketch and Letters.* xi, [1], 345, [1]p; ix, [1], 275, [1]p., half-titles., portrait frontispiece., adverts printed onto inner boards. A fine copy bound in original brown blind stamped cloth, gilt lettered spine, bookseller's ticket of 'T. Edmondson', and binders ticket on final blank of 'Edmonds and Remnants'. Ownership signature on verso of the first end-paper of volume I of S. Hornby, Dalton Hall, [Westmoreland], and with the Hornby family embossed crest on the half-titles. Scarce, 8vo. Longman, Brown, Green, Longmans and Roberts, 1858. £325.00

~ Mary was born into the Galton family of Birmingham in 1778, and her father Samuel Galton jnr. was a member of the Lunar Society. She was encouraged to write by Hannah More, and the family enjoyed a wide circle of friends, including Edgeworth, Day, Priestly, and Erasmus Darwin. In 1806 she married Lambert Schimmelpenninck, a Dutch shipping merchant, and moved to Bristol to be with him there. Unfortunately there was a dispute with the Galton family about her marriage settlement, and eventually they cut off contact. She then began to write in earnest to earn money.

The first volume comprises the unfinished memoirs of her life until the age of twenty, dictated when Schimmelpenninck was in her seventies to her niece, Christiana Hankin. The second part is Hankin's reconstruction of her life thereafter until her death in 1856 from the fragmentary correspondence, journal fragments and miscellaneous writings left among her papers.

This copy was read by Sarah Hornby (1804-1886), in the November after its publication in late June. It is dated November 1858 on the end-paper and also respectively Nov 6th & 19th at the end of each volume. Sarah's copy of *Gleanings from the Menagerie and Aviary at Knowsley Hall*, presented to her by Lord Derby, was sold at Christie's in 1998.



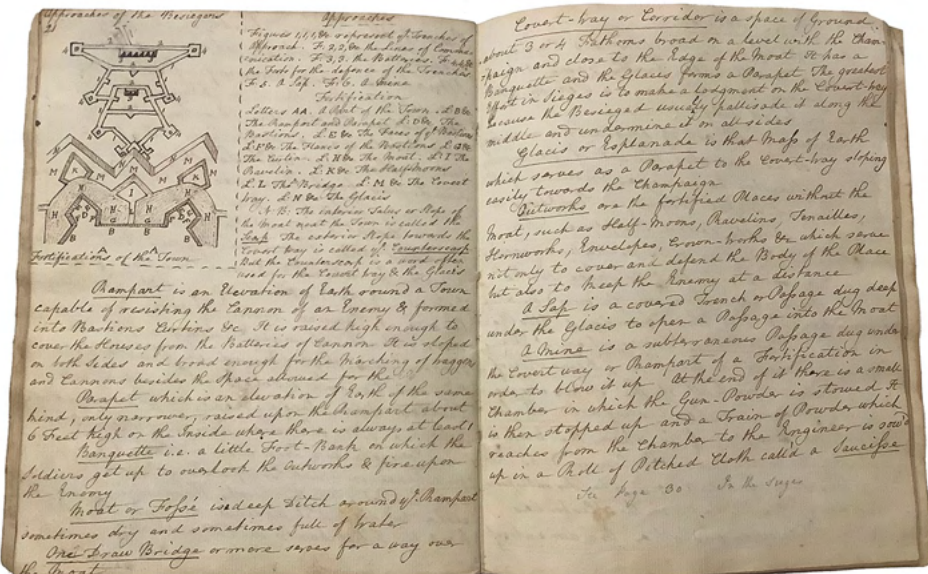
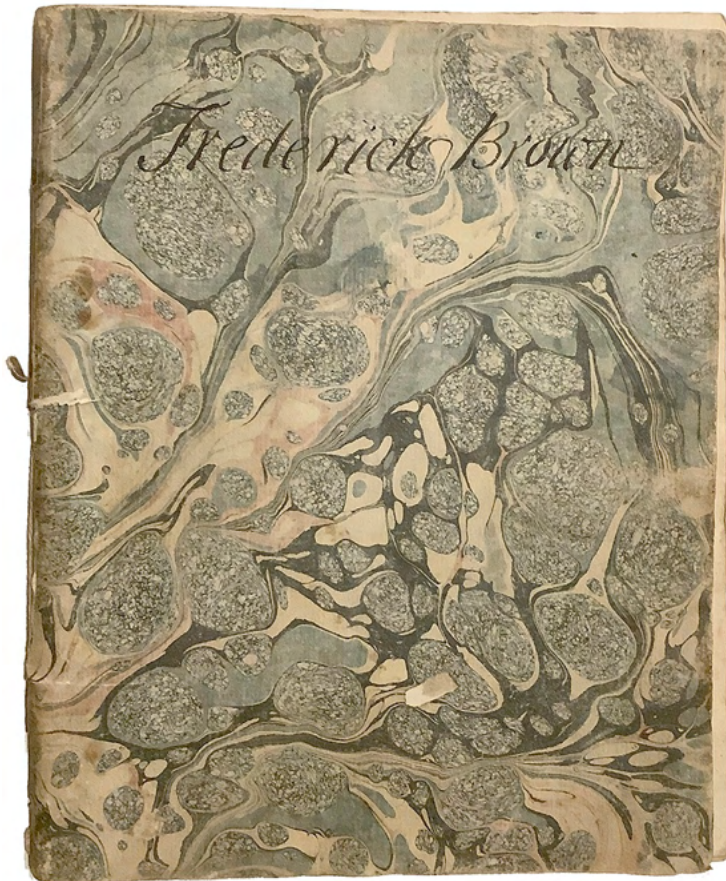
111. SEDGWICK, Miss. Arcturus; or, the Bright Star in Bootes. An easy guide to science. Second edition. xi, [1], 122, [2]pp., frontispiece, decorative title-page and 7 text illustrations. A very good copy in bright original blind and gilt stamped dark green cloth. Very scarce. square 8vo. William Macintosh. 1867. £65.00

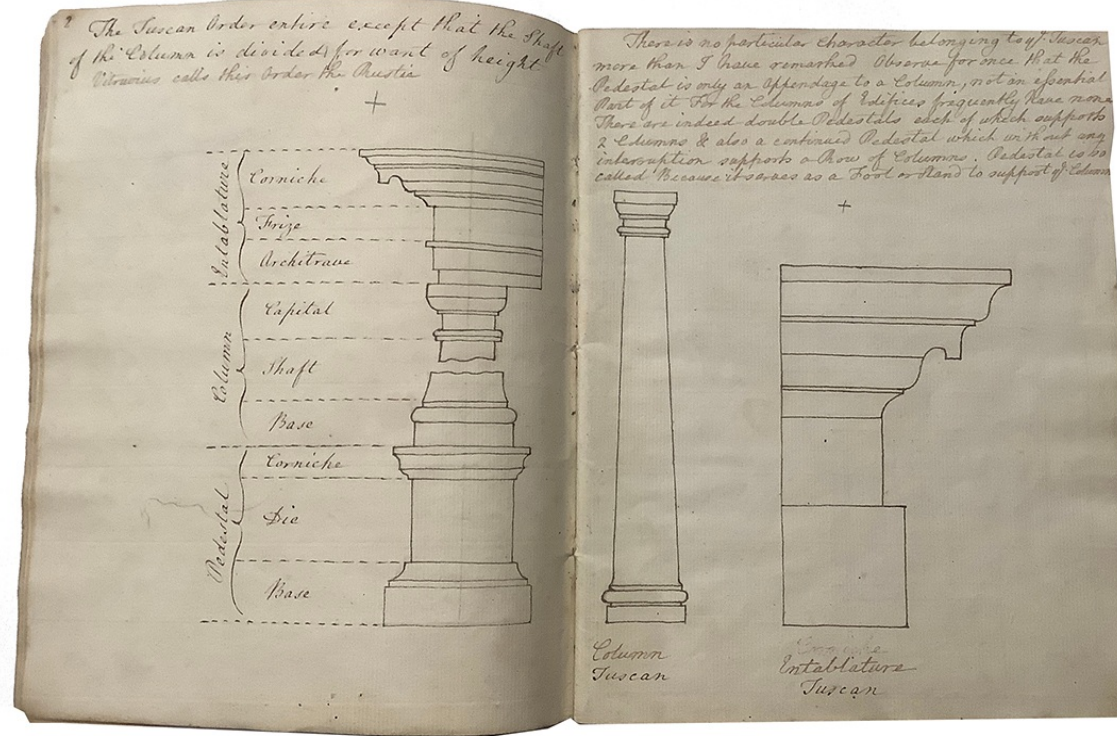
~ First published in 1865, Copac notes the author as the American novelist Catharine Maria Sedgwick. It is written in the form of a didactic dialogue between Harry Wildfire and his mother, depicted in the frontispiece drawn by Robert Taylor Pritchett of Esher, Surrey.

Samuel Smeade Ludlow

This precious book I give to Frederick Brown Feb 7th 1838
Architecture epitomized by my dear Father for his 3 daughters
Let it form the teaching on this science for Frederick's daughter
when they are old enough to learn it -

The Writing is my dear Father's - The drawings are
my own - Mary Brown





112. SNEADE, Mary. A unique and cherished architectural instruction manuscript handwritten by Samuel Snead of Ludlow for an education in architecture and the arts for his three daughters. It is later presented by his daughter Mary, who executed the drawings, to her own younger son, to educate his own daughters.

"This precious book I give to Frederick Brown Feb 2nd 1838. Architecture epitomized by my dear Father for his 3 daughters. Let it form the teaching in this science for Frederick's daughters when they are old enough to learn it. The writing is my dear Father's, the drawings are my own - Mary Brown." Her father died in 1820, at which age Mary, his second daughter, would have been 40, so it is much more likely that this was written shortly after 1800, but before 1806 when Mary married. It was then given by Mary to her younger son Frederick in 1838, when he would have been aged 23. The published biography of the family notes the daughters' education in singing, dancing, and writing, but not in the arts, which might have been supplied by their father at home, hence this manuscript. Frederick had a son, but sadly no daughter to pass this on to the next generation.

31 numbered leaves [62 pages]., with c20 pen and ink drawings of architectural details, (classical columns, capitals, entablature, mouldings, doors & windows), a small plan of a fortified town, and a pasted in engraved view of Westminster Abbey. Original marbled paper wrappers in very good clean condition, and with the name Frederick Brown on the upper cover.
230mm x 190mm. c1800 or slightly later.

SOLD

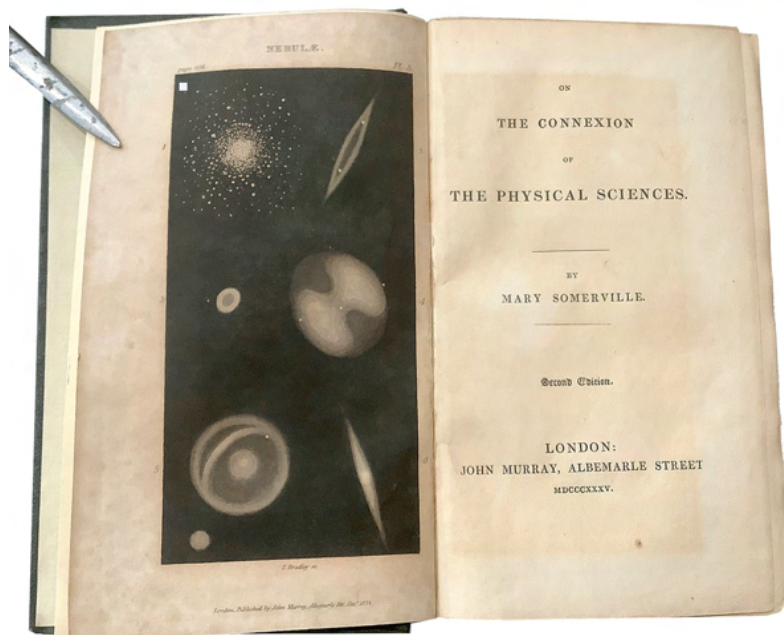
The first 20 leaves are devoted to classical architecture, followed by sections on sculpture, coins & medals. From leaf twenty-four instructions are provided for painting in oil, limning, fresco, painting on glass, in enamel, in miniature, and mosaic. This is followed by a section on porcelain, and then artistic terms (design, draught, contrast, *claro oscuro*, attitude, expression, proportion, tint, degradation, profile &c). The final leaves are related to Prints (printing press, calico printing, engraving, woodcuts, etchings and mezzotint), followed by observations on the picturesque and beauty, referencing Uvedale Price's *Picturesque* (p.327), and Mr [James] Dallaway's observations on St Peter's Rome [published in his *Anecdotes of the Arts...* 1800].

A long and detailed account of Mary's life was published in 1965: *Ayot Rectory: a Family Memoir* (1965), by Carola Oman. It is based on manuscript papers and letters which Mary's daughter Ellen had collected to write a life of her mother in 1858, but which never came to fruition. The following notes are mainly from information contained in this book.

Mary (1780-1858) was born at Netley Hall, Shropshire, the second (of three) daughters of the Rev. Samuel Sneade (died 1820). The family moved into Ludlow for the advantages of education and society for the daughters, and lived in a comfortable well-built house in Brand Lane during the winter months, and Bedstone Rectory, about 12 miles due west, for the summer. Portraits from Netley Hall hung on the walls including those of Mr & Mrs Darley (family aunt and uncle), by Joshua Reynolds. The Misses Sneade were sent to a 'superior school' in Corve Street, and instructed in writing, dancing and singing. At her first ball a gentleman of 'ton' declared [Mary] to be the most beautiful woman and the finest dancer, and she was an agreeable flirt in manner and conversation, and in the succeeding years had numerous suitors.

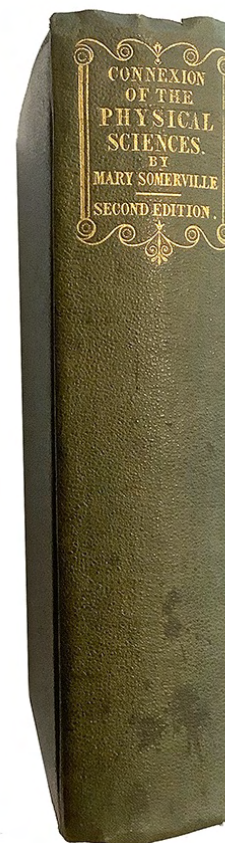
She married John Thomas Brown (1767-1817), in June 1806, on his return from India where he had been Reporter-General of External Commerce in Bengal. They moved to Winifred House, at the top of Sion Hill. Her first son Sam was born in 1809, and a second, William in 1813 who did not survive the birth. Frederick was born in 1815, and there were daughters Ellen, and Emma (born 1814), and a youngest son Joseph Thomas in 1817.

Frederick Brown 1815-1886 married Caroline Coddington and had a son Latham, and Joseph Thomas married Emma Towers.



113. SOMERVILLE, Mary. *On the Connexion of the Physical Sciences*. Second edition. xvi, 493, [1]p advert., frontispiece and 4 plates. A very good copy in original dark green pebble grain cloth, gilt lettered spine. Expertly recased and with new end-papers. Early ownership name of Cecil F.J. Newby on the recto of the frontispiece. 8vo. John Murray. 1835.

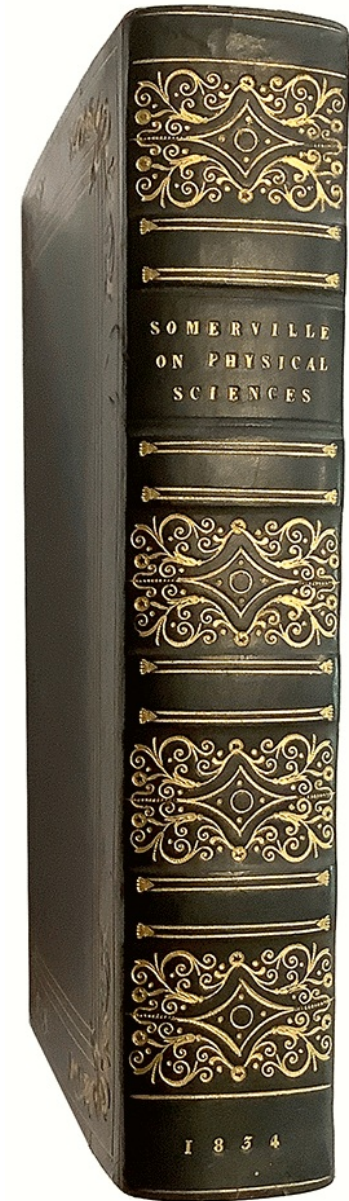
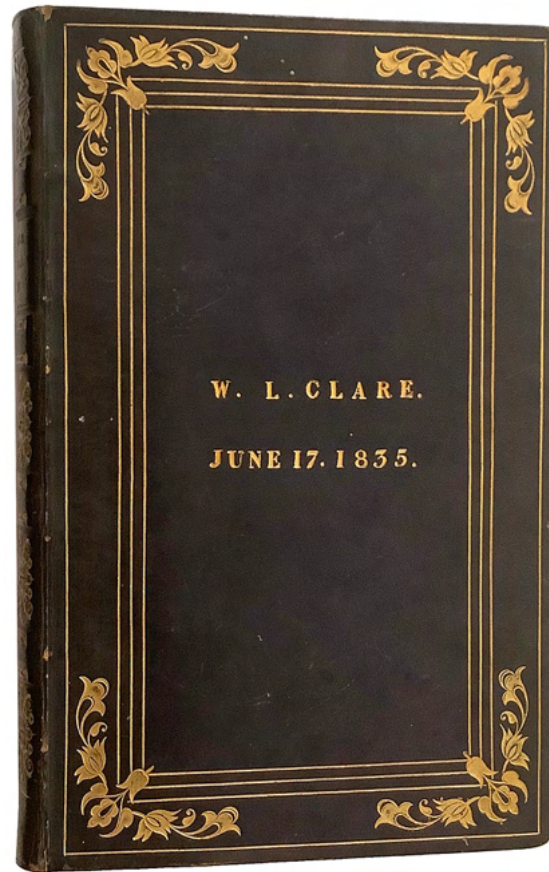
£495.00



~ “In 1834 mathematician and author Mary Somerville published *On the Connexion of the Physical Sciences*, a work that was instrumental in the making of modern physics as a discipline. Contemporaries praised the book’s clear and lucid survey of astronomy, experimental physics, and chemistry, and it became a classic of Victorian scientific writing. But *Connexion* also posed key questions for a rapidly expanding and largely male-dominated world at a moment of intense intellectual ferment. Could women excel at science? Were the scientific writings of a woman inherently different from those of a man?”

Ref: *Mary Somerville’s Vision of Science*. James Secord. *Physics Today*, January 2018.

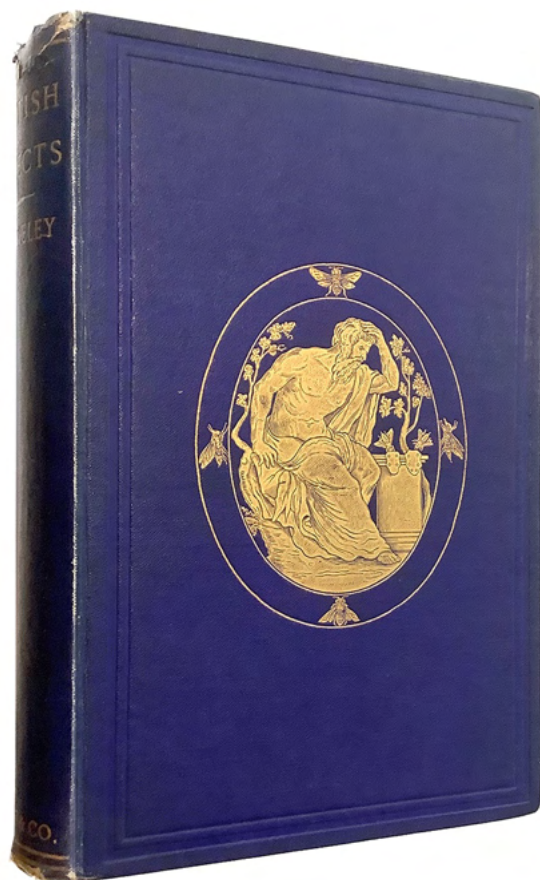
Mary Somerville (1780-1872) after whom the Oxford College (originally for ladies) is named was a woman of great intellect which she demonstrated both in her own scientific research and in the more popular works, such as this, which is dedicated to Queen Victoria. This second edition is enlarged (after p.418) by the addition of notes (with diagrams) and an account of the experiments of Macedonio Melloni (1798-1854) demonstrating that heat possessed the same properties as light.



114. SOMERVILLE, Mary. *On the Connexion of the Physical Sciences*. Second edition. xvi, 493, [1]p *advert.*, *frontispiece and 4 plates*. A very handsome copy bound in full dark blue calf with ornate gilt panels, and gilt spine in compartments. Marbled edges and end-papers. Old waterstain to the top corner of the frontispiece. With the name W.L. Clare, June 17, 1835 in gilt on the upper board, and a handwritten note on a preliminary blank presenting this copy to him as a prize for diligence & proficiency in the study of mathematics. The volume comes by direct descent from the family.

8vo. John Murray. 1835.

£495.00



115. STAVELEY, E.F., Miss. *British Insects*.
 A familiar description of the form, structure, habits and transformations of insects. First edition. xv, [1], 392, 16pp adverts., half-title., 16 hand coloured plates and 73 text illustrations. A good clean copy in original blue sand-grain publisher's cloth; borders in blind on both covers; central pictorial vignette in gold on upper cover; lettering in gold on spine. Wear to head and tail of the spine.
 8vo. L. Reeve and Co. 1871. £45.00



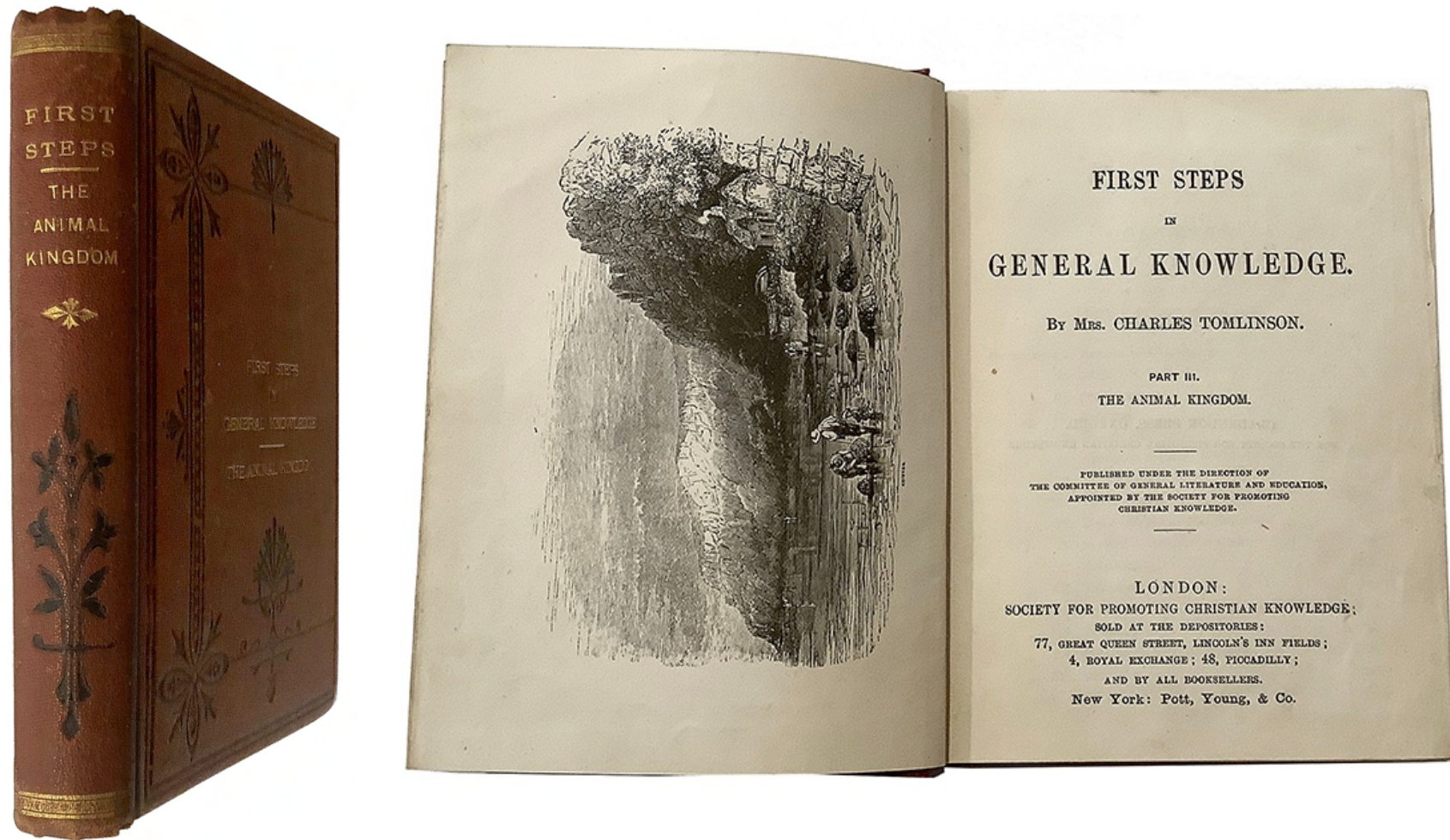
~ The work was well received and described as 'an admirable manual for the tyro in entomology.' "Terrible enough the dragonflies must be amongst the smaller and feebler tribes of insects. their larvae and pupae are aquatic and exceedingly voracious, feeding on every inhabitant of the water small enough to be attacked on land or rather in the air, where swallow-like the dragonfly hunts and seizes its prey upon the wing, they verily are flying dragons. to an hapless fly the swift approach on one of these glittering ' Devil's needles' as they are sometimes called, must be terrible indeed. Their flight is remarkable, the dragonfly being endowed with the power of changing its forward course and moving backwards or laterally without the necessity of turning." Miss Staveley also published a two volume work on British Spiders, and contributed papers to the Linnaean Society.



116. TOMLINSON, Sarah Windsor. *First Steps in General Knowledge. Part I. The Starry Heavens.* [2], 161, [3]pp., *engraved frontispiece, and numerous text illustrations, some full-page.* A good copy in original blind stamped and gilt lettered cloth. A little rubbed, and with the number '3' on the upper board. Ownership name of J. Bushell, 13th Jan 1894 at the head of the title-page. Not in the B.L. small square 8vo. S.P.C.K. [1848].

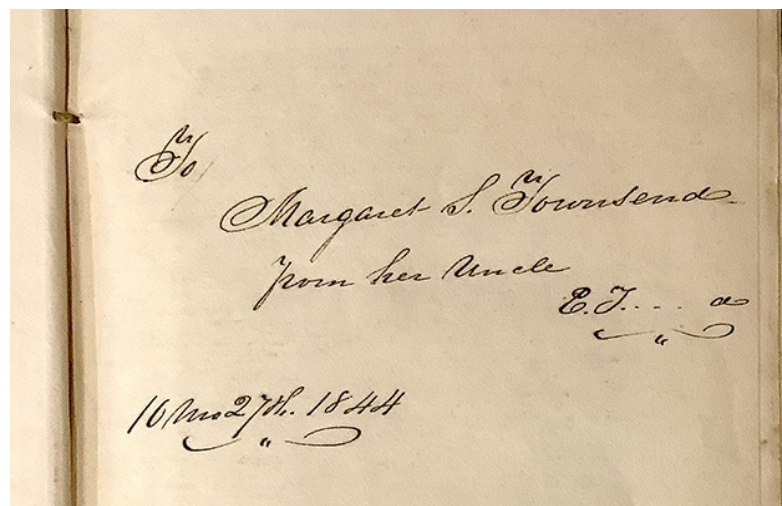
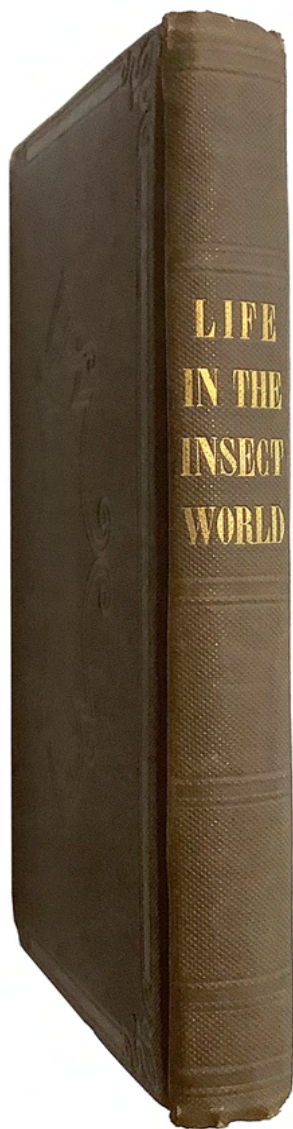
£40.00

~ In 1835, Sarah's elder sister Maria married Rev. L. Tomlinson, who managed a large school in Salisbury with his brother Charles Tomlinson. Sarah married Charles in 1839, and the couple moved to London, where they lived in a small house at 12 Bedford Place, Euston. Charles was involved in a wide range of literary and scientific engagements in London. For many years, the couple worked together on the *Saturday Magazine*, publishing weekly articles about nature, science, history and technology. Sarah also wrote several books for the Committee of General Literature and Education, under the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Among her prominent works were a series titled *First Steps in General Knowledge*, *Sketches of Rural Affairs* and *Lessons Derived from the Animal World*.



117. TOMLINSON, Sarah Windsor. *First Steps in General Knowledge. Part III. The Animal Kingdom.* vi, 297, [1], [4]pp adverts., engraved frontispiece, and numerous text illustrations, some full-page. A very good copy in original brown cloth, decorated in black, and gilt lettered. Ownership name dated 1879 on the front-end-paper.
small square 8vo. S.P.C.K. [c1848].

£40.00



An inscribed family copy

118. [TOWNSEND, Mary]. *Life in the Insect World: or, Conversations upon Insects, between an Aunt and her Nieces*. First edition. vii, [2], 10-241, [1]p., 9 full-page illustrations. A very good copy bound in original blind stamped and gilt lettered cloth. Gift inscription on the blank leaf following front end-papers: To Margaret S. Townsend from her Uncle E. T—d, 10 mo 27th 1844. With a small envelope found at the back of the book containing three small paper circles in shades of blue and several other cut-out paper shapes. One manuscript emendation to the text in pencil. 8vo. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston. 1844. £250.00

LIFE IN THE INSECT WORLD:

OR,

CONVERSATIONS

UPON

INSECTS,

BETWEEN AN AUNT AND HER NIECES

"The smallest insect holds a rank
Important in the eye of Him,
Who framed the scale of being."

PHILADELPHIA:
LINDSAY & BLAKISTON,
N.W. cor. Fourth and Chesnut streets.

1844.

~ When Jane Marcet's texts first appeared on the American market, they spawned a host of imitations. Among American authors to use the conversational format was Mary Townsend, sister of the naturalist John Kirk Townsend. This is a family copy, inscribed from her brother Edward, to one of her nieces. Scarce, unrecorded in Copac.

Mary Townsend was born in Philadelphia in 1814. She was a member of a prominent Quaker family that included her brothers John Kirk Townsend, a well-known naturalist, and Edward Townsend, President of the Philadelphia Institution for Instruction of the Blind and founding official of the Philadelphia Dental College.

Mary had recurring illnesses throughout her short life, including one that caused her to lose vision at times. She also had a lifelong interest in insects and their behaviour.

In 1844, while bed-ridden, Mary Townsend wrote the book *Life in the Insect World, or Conversations upon Insects, Between an Aunt and her Nieces*. Published anonymously, the book was intended as a vehicle to introduce children to the natural world, but became popular among adults as well. Presented in twenty chapters, and based upon her own personal observations and those of other naturalists, Townsend presents the story of an aunt discussing insects with her nieces and friends. She discusses the habits, structures and behaviour of many insects, including ants, termites, butterflies, silkworms, crickets, fleas, spiders, and fireflies. Townsend also describes her experiments with insects, including her microscopic observation of a flea and her attempts to feed ants.

Her book influenced many, including her close friend, the naturalist Graceanna Lewis, who wished to author a similar book on birds. In 1853, Swedish writer and feminist activist Fredrika Bremer, in her book *Homes of the New World*, recounted the effect Mary Townsend had on her readership:

“Her little book for youth, “Life in the Insect World,” is to me a welcome gift because it shows me a young girl who has made nice investigation into one of the natural sciences which I have often endeavored to excite young ladies to do but as far as I know without success, that is to say, biographical observations with regard to animals and plants. The turn for minute detail, acute perception of the lesser world, which is peculiar to woman, together with a poetic feeling which allies it to the spiritual—the universal, and which can discern in all things symbols of purpose rich in thought; these are all natural endowments which seem singularly to befit woman for that portion of science, and should in their pursuit and their application tend to make the searching soul richer in its daily life. Mary Townsend has treated her subject in this biographic and poetic manner and given in her work the history of the insect metamorphoses.”

Mary Townsend is equally well known for a publication that was produced for the Anti-Slavery Fair of 1846 in Philadelphia. Ardent abolitionists Mary and her sister Hannah wrote and illustrated *The Anti-Slavery Alphabet*, which presented the alphabet in a primer targeted at children while espousing the abolitionist viewpoint. The book consisted of sixteen pages, with hand-coloured illustrations, and was hand-sown into a paper cover. It sold briskly according to an 1847 report by the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society.

Sources are contradictory, but it appears Mary Townsend died in either 1849 or 1851, and she was only 35 or 37 years old.



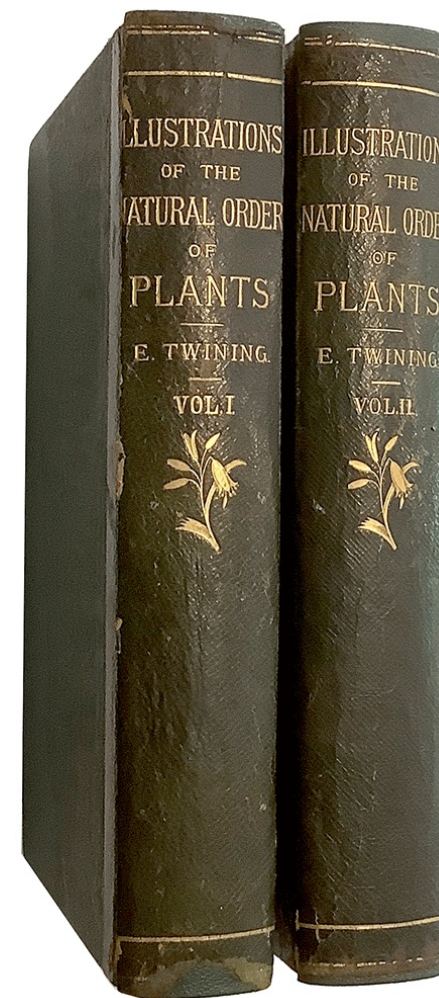
119. TWINING, Elizabeth. *Illustrations of the Natural Order of Plants with Groups and Descriptions*. Reduced from the original folio edition. Two volumes. xii, 80, [1]p; [6], 81-172pp., 160 coloured chromolithograph plates. Three plates and their text descriptions have been bound upside down, an original error in the production. Some slight foxing, mainly marginal, but a very good copy bound in original morocco backed green cloth boards. Expertly rebaked retaining the original gilt lettered spines, some rubbing to the joints. All-edges-gilt. Scarce.

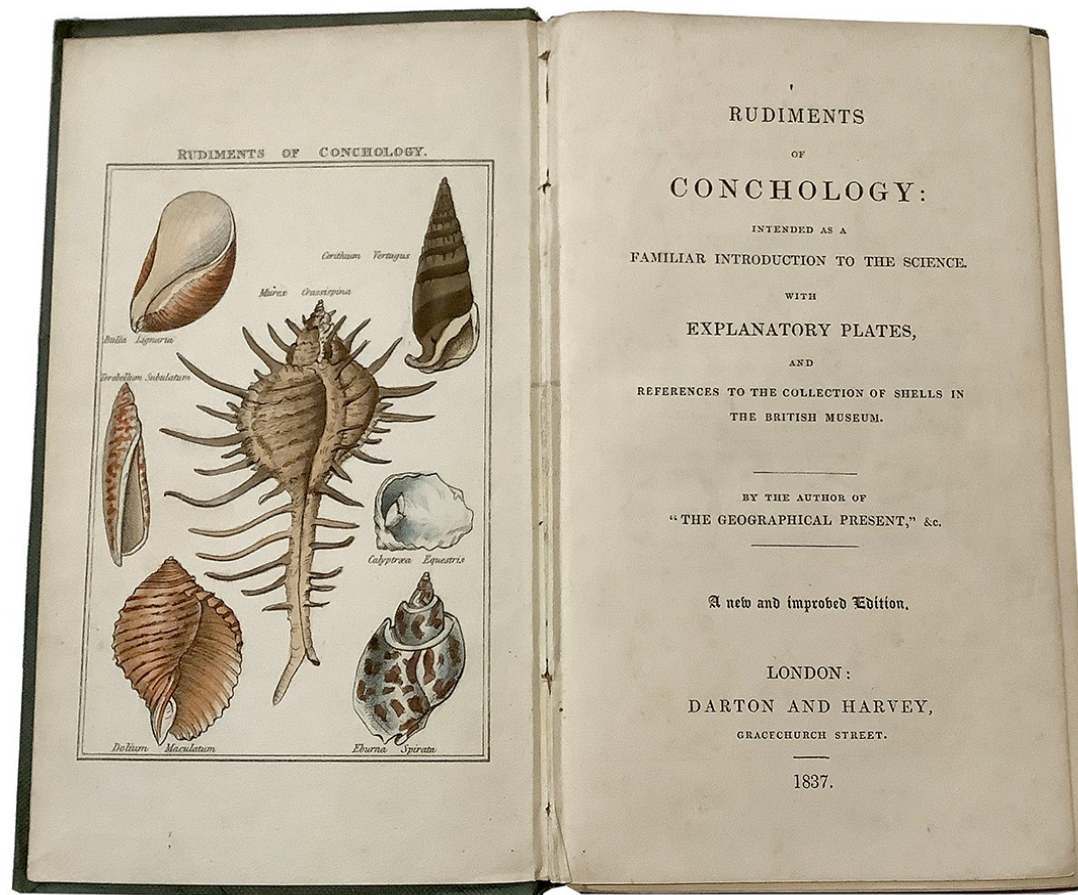
large 8vo. Sampson, Low, Son, and Marston. 1868.

£395.00

~ Born into the prestigious tea dynasty which still trades under the family name, Elizabeth Twining (1805-89) had the financial security to dedicate her life to philanthropic causes, women's education, and her passion for botany and art. She studied works displayed at London galleries and created minutely detailed copies to decorate her doll's houses. Her second love, for flowers, was nurtured by visits to the Royal Horticultural Society at Chiswick and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

The year 1849 saw the publication of *Illustrations of the Natural Order of Plants*, considered to have a place among the finest lithographic flower books of the mid-nineteenth century. The 'natural order' is that of Alphonse de Candolle, who rejected the Linnaean or 'artificial' classification. The emphasis on the appearance of mature plants and their habitat rather than their physiology is echoed not only in her art but also in her lectures on plants, which as well as having a strong geographical theme also discussed how plants were used, particularly by women. She believed botany had a place in the education of women of all social classes and her approach was that of 'mother educator', whether she was encouraging the poor to grow plants for flower shows or promoting the cultivation of window boxes in institutions such as workhouse wards, where the glory of plants could be shared by sick inmates and staff alike.





120. [VENNING, Mary Anne]. Rudiments of Conchology: intended as a familiar introduction to the science. With explanatory plates, and references to the collection of shells in the British Museum. A new and improved edition. 112pp., ten hand-coloured plates (including the frontispiece), some highlighted with gum arabic. Original blind stamped cloth, with gilt lettering to the spine. Some wear to the head and tail of the spine, and contents a little loose in the binding. Contents clean and fresh. Ownership name of Mary Ann Oxbon[???], 1844 on the end-paper. 12mo. Darton & Harvey. 1837. £160.00

~ A charming conchological guide for children written in the form of an instructive dialogue between a father and his two children. It is written by the little-known female author - Mary Anne Venning. Her best known work is probably 'The Geographical Present' and she wrote a number of other works for children with a scientific theme. She follows the same style as other female authors of the time eg Elizabeth Fitton, Jane Marcet, by using dialogue between a teacher or parent and a child or children to convey factual information. There are several references to Pacific shells from Australia, New Zealand and California, and she notes her sources as being, The Conchology of Lamarck, Burrow's Elements of Conchology, and "other introductory treatises." This demonstrates her conversance with the scientific arguments of her day.

"Like her early-nineteenth-century contemporary Priscilla Wakefield, Venning seems to have been a woman who channelled her interest in science into a socially acceptable career of writing for the young. While reconstructing Venning's feelings about her work is difficult, given the few, bare historical facts known about her, her work can be framed as subject to social constraints that would have blocked a scientific career but would have presented no such obstacles to scientific pursuits directed toward a pedagogical purpose. Early in her writing career, Venning learned the importance of framing her work in the literary marketplace. Her early text *Simple Pleasures, Designed for Young Persons above Twelve Years of Age* (1811), a guide for young people on their moral and social development, was dismissed as simultaneously derivative yet also dangerously transgressive in an issue of *Monthly Review* of that year, which stated,

The fair author has composed it according to the plans and hints contained in Mr. Edgeworth's book on 'Practical Education': but she carries his system too far when she describes a girl who receives exactly the same education as her brother, and is afterward taken into partnership with him, and made a clerk in her father's counting house!

The writer of this review emphasizes that a woman's education should polish her for the private sphere rather than provide her with the skills for the public workplace. To that end, it is also significant that the reviewer credits Richard Edgeworth, not Maria, as the author of *Practical Education*. Though one cannot know the degree to which such views may have influenced Venning, it is striking that her future body of work shifted to a focus on adapting scientific theories for young readers, an occupation in keeping with socially acceptable womanly duties but still insistent upon interpreting and remarking on important scientific conclusions."

ref: *The Dysfunctional "Family of Man"* - Mary Anne Venning and Barbara Hofland Classify Human Races in Pre-Darwinian Primers. Megan A. Norcia, 2010.



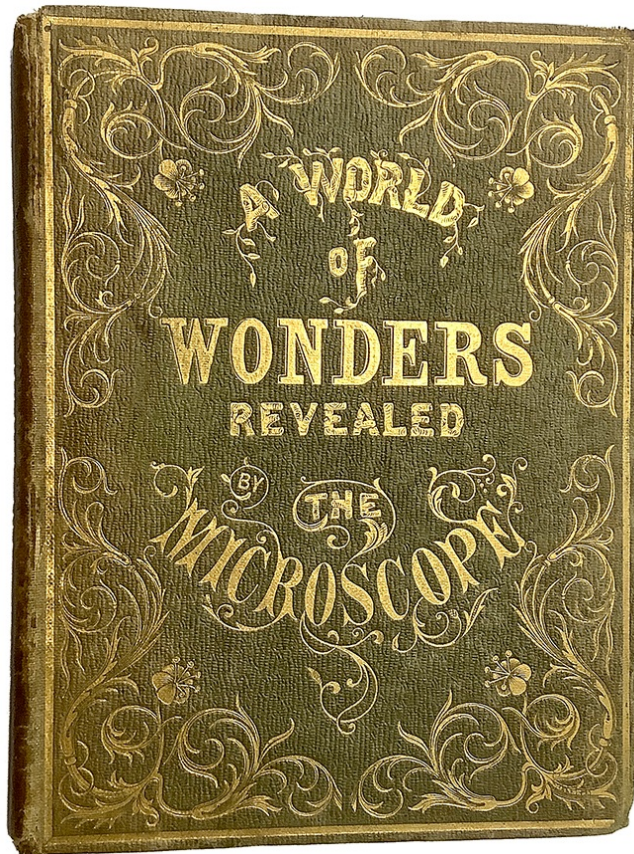
121. [WARD, Mary]. A World of Wonders Revealed by the Microscope. A Book for Young Students. With coloured illustrations. By the Hon. Mrs W. First trade edition. [4], 56, [8]pp adverts., 14 hand-coloured plates. A very good copy in the original decorative red gilt cloth, all-edges-gilt, expertly rebacked retaining the original gilt lettered spine. Fresh contemporary yellow glazed end-papers. Some slight dustiness to the pages in places. square 8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1858. £350.00

~ Mary Ward was born in Ballylin, near Ferbane , Co.Offaly in April, 1827. She belonged to an aristocratic family and had two sisters and one brother. When she was growing up, her cousin William Parsons was building (what was to become the world's largest telescope for over 50 years) the 58 ft Leviathan Telescope at Birr Castle. Mary Ward was involved in recording its different stages of construction, and her drawings and Mary Rosse's (William's wife) photographs, were crucial for the recent restoration of the Leviathan at Birr castle.

“Mary Ward (1827-1869) took a keen interest in natural history and astronomy from childhood. Her enthusiasm led to serious study and she produced microscope slides and skilled and accurate illustrations, both for her own work and for others. Ward put on exhibitions for her family and friends and hand-printed her own booklets. Her *Sketches with the Microscope* began as a collection of letters to a childhood friend. It was first published locally in 250 copies in her native Ireland before coming to the attention of the London publisher Groombridge & Sons, who bought the copyright and republished it as *A World of Wonders Revealed by the Microscope*.

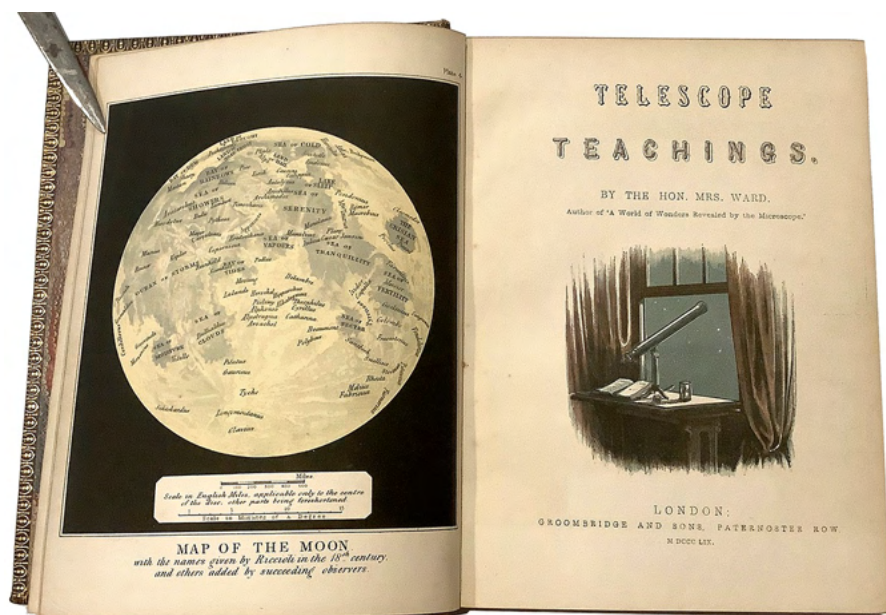
Although she had no real claim to the title ‘The Hon. Mrs Ward’, at a time when it was difficult for a woman to find a publisher this was perhaps an attempt to reinforce her authority as an author. Her illustrated work combined a ‘panorama’ of the natural world, reflecting the love of spectacle and beauty in society, and a guide to the practical use of the microscope at a time when the instrument was gaining a wider audience. Ward’s observations were made using the microscope bought for her by her father when she was 18. Made by Andrew Ross, a leading instrument maker of the period, Ward included an illustration of it in Plate 1 of her book.” ref: Whipple Library.

In 1869 while travelling in a steam carriage (invented by her cousin Parsons) with her husband, she was thrown from the carriage, when it hit a bump and crushed by one of the wheels, dying instantly. She became a victim of the world's first automobile accident.



122. WARD, Mary. *A World of Wonders Revealed by the Microscope*. A Book for Young Students. With coloured illustrations. By the Hon. Mrs Ward. Second trade edition. [4], 56, [8]pp adverts dated 1858., 14 hand-coloured plates. Original decorative moss green gilt cloth, all-edges-gilt. Some wear to the spine, and uneven fading to the covers. A little offsetting from the plates but a good clean copy internally. Scarce. Not in the BL, or Cambridge. The first edition to contain the author's name on the title-page. square 8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1859.

£250.00



gilt lettering 'Merenti Collegium Stonyhurst' on the upper board, and prize book-plate dated 1861. Some marking to a preliminary blank. Very scarce.

8vo. London: Groombridge and Sons, Paternoster Row. 1859.

£650.00

123. WARD, Mary. *Telescope Teachings*: a familiar sketch of astronomical discovery; combining a special notice of objects coming within the range of a small telescope, illustrated by the author's original drawings; with a detail of the most interesting discoveries which have been made with the assistance of powerful telescopes, concerning the phenomena of the heavenly bodies, including the recent comet. First edition.

xii, [2], 212pp., 16 colour plates (numbered 1-12, 12*-15), coloured title-page vignette. A very good copy bound in full contemporary dark blue calf prize binding. Ornate gilt decorated spine, red morocco label, gilt borders. With

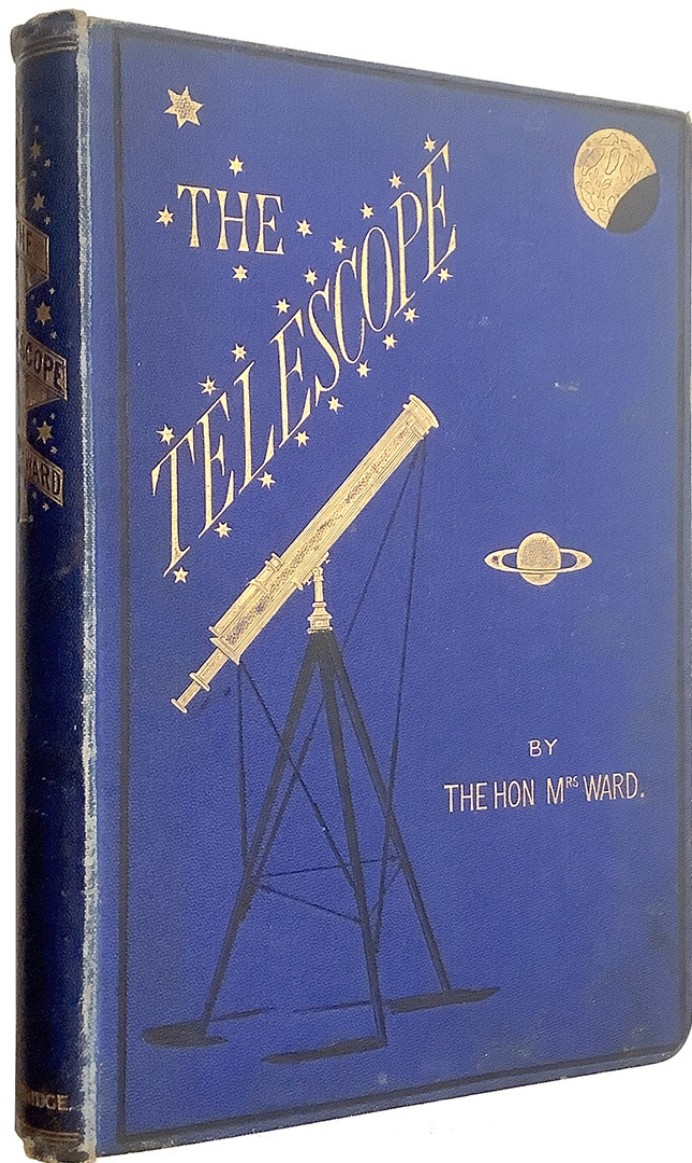
~ Mary Ward's cousin was William, 3rd Earl of Rosse and she was a frequent visitor to Birr Castle. She met and corresponded with a number of leading scientists of the time, including David Brewster. Lord Rosse also had the famed great telescope, with a 6 foot diameter mirror, built at Birr Castle. This was completed in 1845 and Mary Ward was one of the first to make observations with it. She produced a companion volume to her microscopical work: *Telescope Teachings*. Similar to her microscopy book, this presented the wonders of the heavens along with a practical guide to the use of a small telescope, with the aim of encouraging others to observe and study for themselves. It was illustrated with Ward's drawings and observations, made using her own telescope, which had been recommended by her cousin. It was published by Groombridge & Sons in 1859. Also included were recent discoveries made with more powerful telescopes, including the comet of 1858. At the request of Sir William Rowan Hamilton, she was one of three women given special dispensation to receive the Royal Astronomical Society's *Monthly Notices*, the others on the mailing list being Mary Somerville and Queen Victoria.





124. WARD, Mary. *The Telescope: a familiar sketch combining a special notice of objects coming within the range of a small telescope, with a detail of the most interesting discoveries which have been made with the assistance of powerful telescopes, concerning the phenomena of the heavenly bodies.* Illustrated by the author's original drawings. Third edition. viii, 150, [2]pp adverts., 12 colour printed plates, and a number of text illustrations. A good copy in original dark blue sand-grain cloth, decorated in black, and gilt lettered. Some old damp marks to the leading edges of the boards. 8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1869. £120.00

~ First published in 1859 under the title 'Telescope Teachings...'

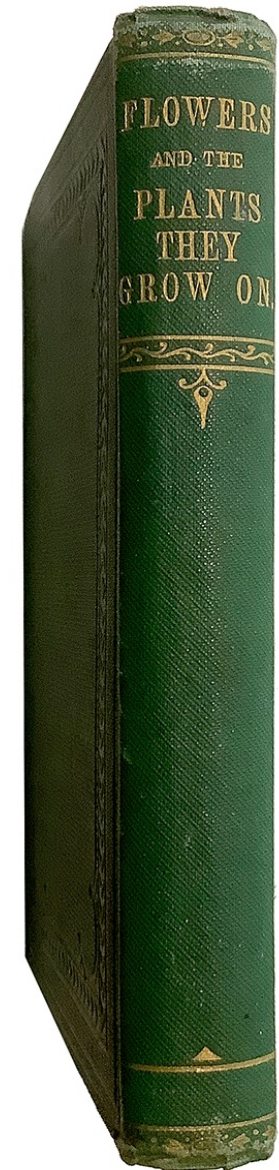
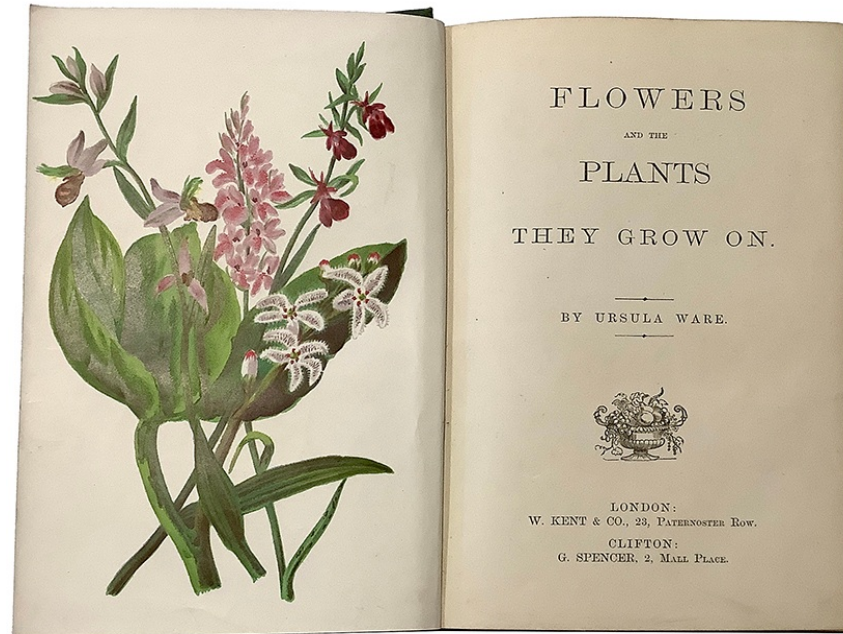


125. WARD, Mary. *The Telescope: a familiar sketch combining a special notice of objects coming within the range of a small telescope, with a detail of the most interesting discoveries which have been made with the assistance of powerful telescopes, concerning the phenomena of the heavenly bodies.* Illustrated by the author's original drawings. Fourth edition. viii, 150, [2]pp adverts., 12 colour printed plates, and a number of text illustrations. A good copy in original dark blue sand-grain cloth, decorated in black, and gilt. A redesigned binding from that of the third edition.

8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1876.

£140.00

~ Inscribed on the front-end-paper. "Alice M. Crown. With Charlie's best love & sincere hopes that she will forgive the teasing he thought it necessary to subject her to. June 1886."



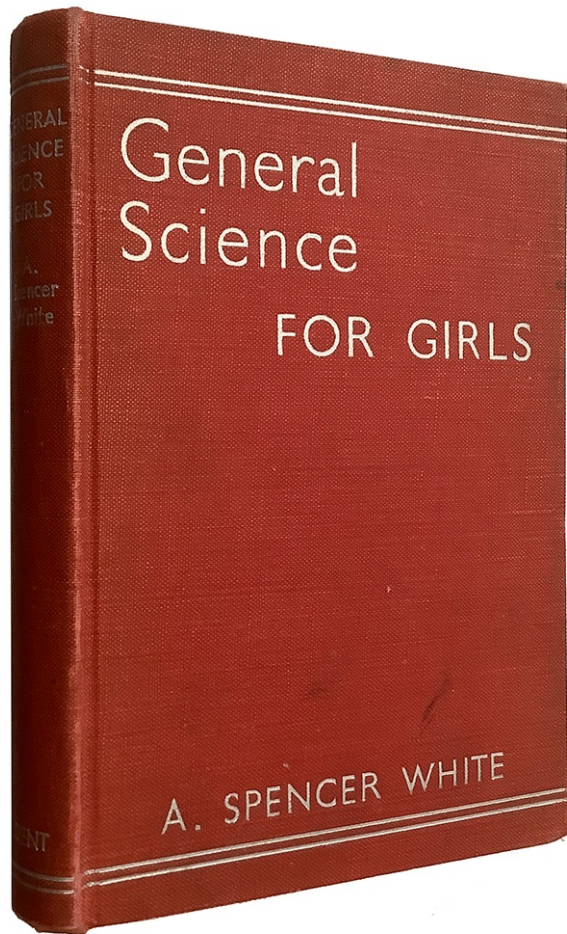
126. WARE, Ursula. *Flowers and the Plants they Grow On*. First edition. vi, [2], 248pp., half-title., 10 plates (2 coloured). A very good copy in original blind stamped and gilt lettered dark green cloth. Inscription dated 1877 on the end-paper. The preface is dated Clifton, November 20th, 1876.

8vo. W. Kent and Co. [1876].

£25.00

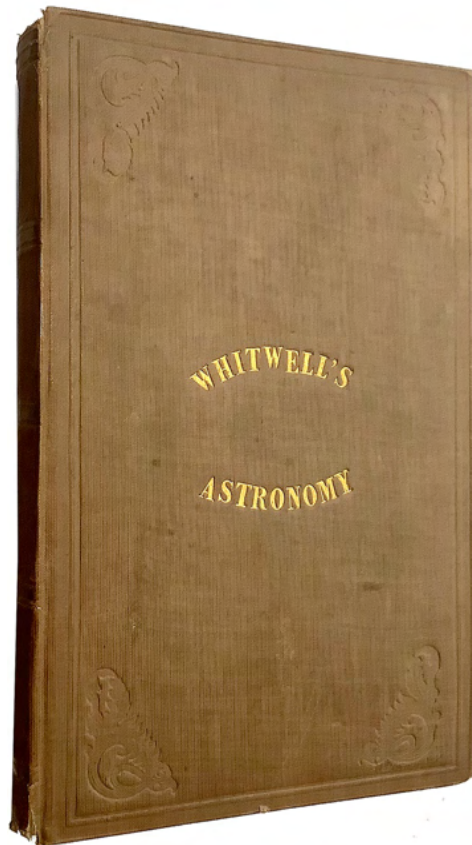
~ The volume is written as a series of conversations between members of the Forrester family; Aunt Anna conducting botany lessons for her young nieces and nephews. The author aims “to give such knowledge of the structure of flowers, and of the classification adopted in most of our books of reference for British Plants, and so to find out the names of any new flowers they meet with.”

I can find no record of any other publication by Ursula Ware, who remains a shadowy figure. She may have been the daughter of Dr James and Ursula Ware, and one of her brothers is recorded as living in Clifton.



127. WHITE, A. Spencer. General Science for Girls. Illustrated with 296 diagrams. 312pp. A good copy in original red cloth, lettered in silver. 8vo. J.M. Dent & Sons. 1948. £15.00

~ “It is hoped that girl readers will be offended by the title of the book. They are asked to believe that there is no implication that science for girls is of a lower grade than science for boys. The title is only meant to suggest that some of their interests have been specially kept in mind.”

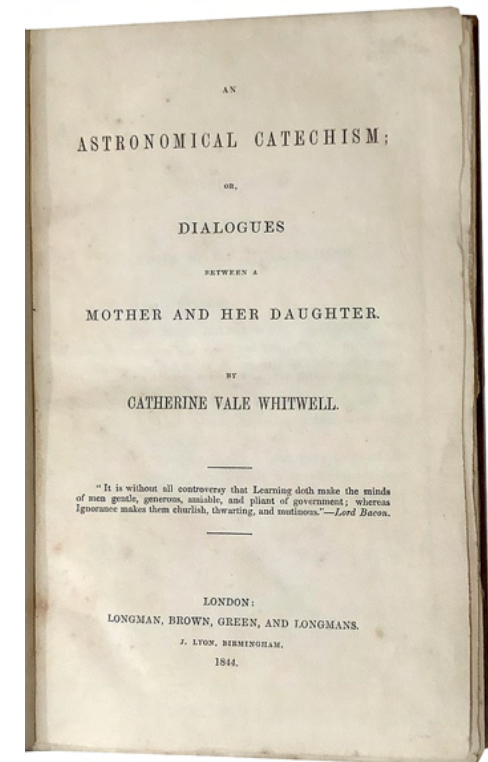


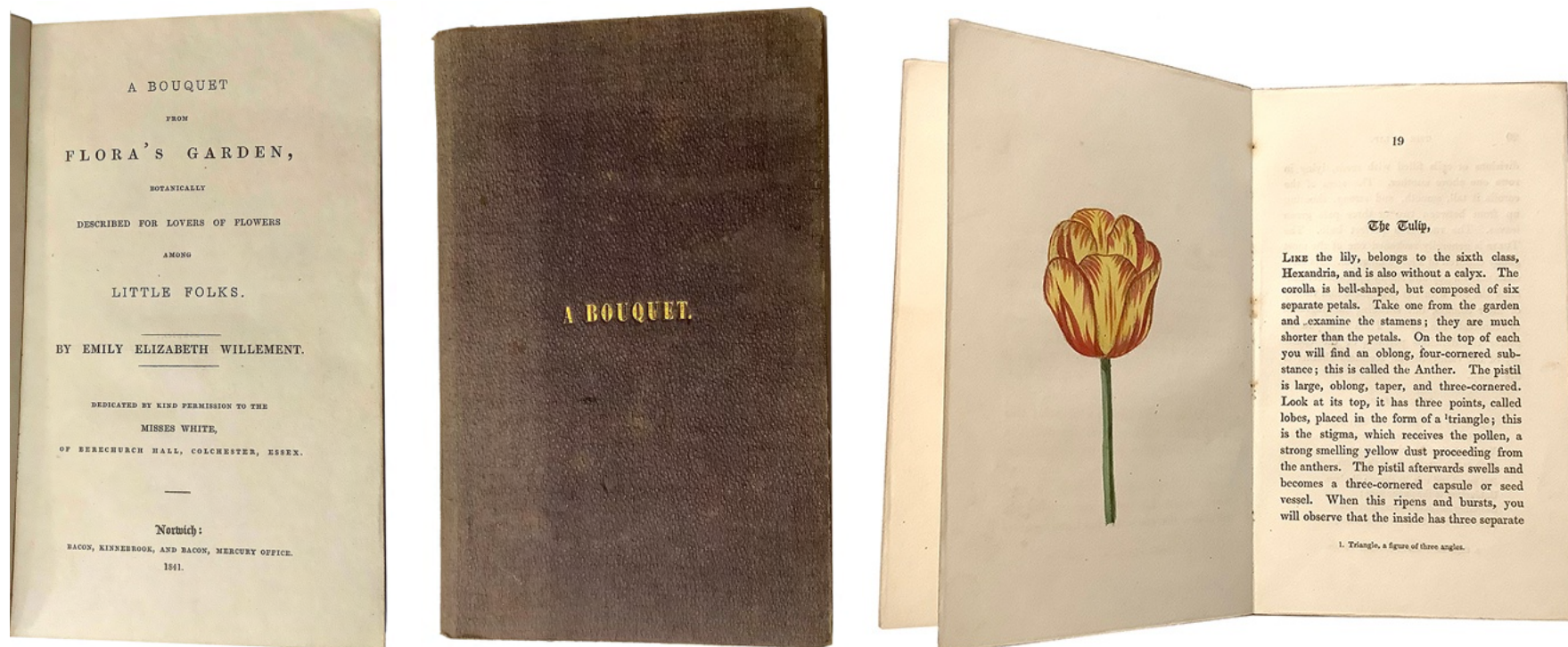
128. WHITWELL, Catherine Vale. *An Astronomical Catechism: or, Dialogues between a Mother and her Daughter.* ix, [2], 6-196pp. A very good copy in original blind stamped and gilt lettered brown cloth. Some wear to the head and tail of the spine, and just a trifle wear to the corner tips. Inscribed on the front-end-paper "to Laura Matilda Madeley by her affect. father. Nov. 25th, 1848." Laura is recorded as being born in Birmingham, c.1836. Very scarce. 8vo. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans. [printed by J. Lyon, Birmingham.] 1844. £250.00

~ First published in 1818, to be given to her pupils at her private seminary in Russell Square, Bloomsbury. In her preface, which she dedicates to her pupils at Solihull Academy, she notes that "the portals of science have been more widely opened... and I accordingly endeavour to perform my part, by reducing the original volume to the size of a Pocket Companion; and by assuring the youthful inquirer, both of the certainty of the triumph of truth, and of the benefit of such investigations to the individual..."

"Whitwell's Catechism is the only book we know on the constellations that is written in dialogue form. Even more unusual, the striking plates [in the first edition] were all drawn by the author herself. Whitwell would shortly become an instructor at Robert Owen's school at New Lanarck, and would be responsible for drawing the large visual aids that Owen favored."

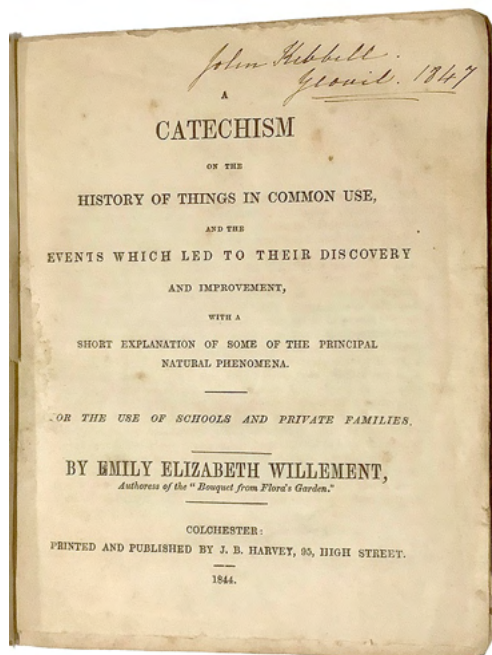
Ref: Linda Hall Library.





129. WILLEMENT, Emily Elizabeth. *A Bouquet from Flora's Garden*, botanically described for lovers of flowers among little folks. Dedicated by kind permission to the Misses White, of Berechurch Hall, Colchester, Essex. First edition. [16], 48pp., 19 coloured lithograph plates. A very good clean copy in original gilt lettered limp pebble grain cloth. Inscribed on a preliminary blank, "Jane Robinson, presented by her kind friend Mrs Tills, 1841." 12mo. Norwich: Bacon, Kinnebrook, and Bacon, Mercury Office. 1841. £220.00

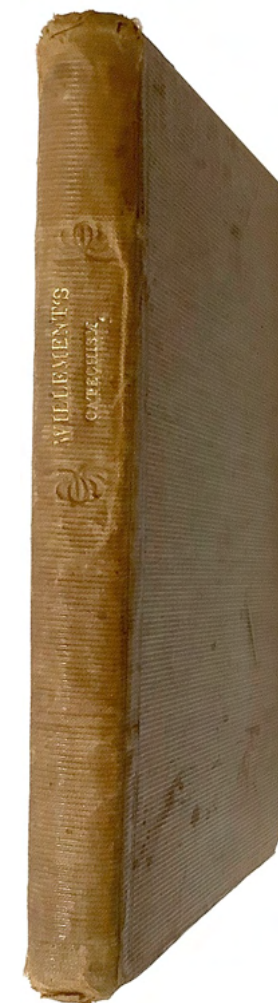
~ Emily (1820-1904) was the daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth Willement (nee Sparling) of Norwich. Her father was a solicitor, alderman, and twice mayor of the city. The list of subscribers records just over 300 copies, predominantly to local ladies, and includes the botanical artist, and friend of Charles Lamb, Caroline Maria Applebee, of Colchester. This, her first work, written when she was 21, is rare, and Copac records only 2 copies (BL, Kew Gardens).

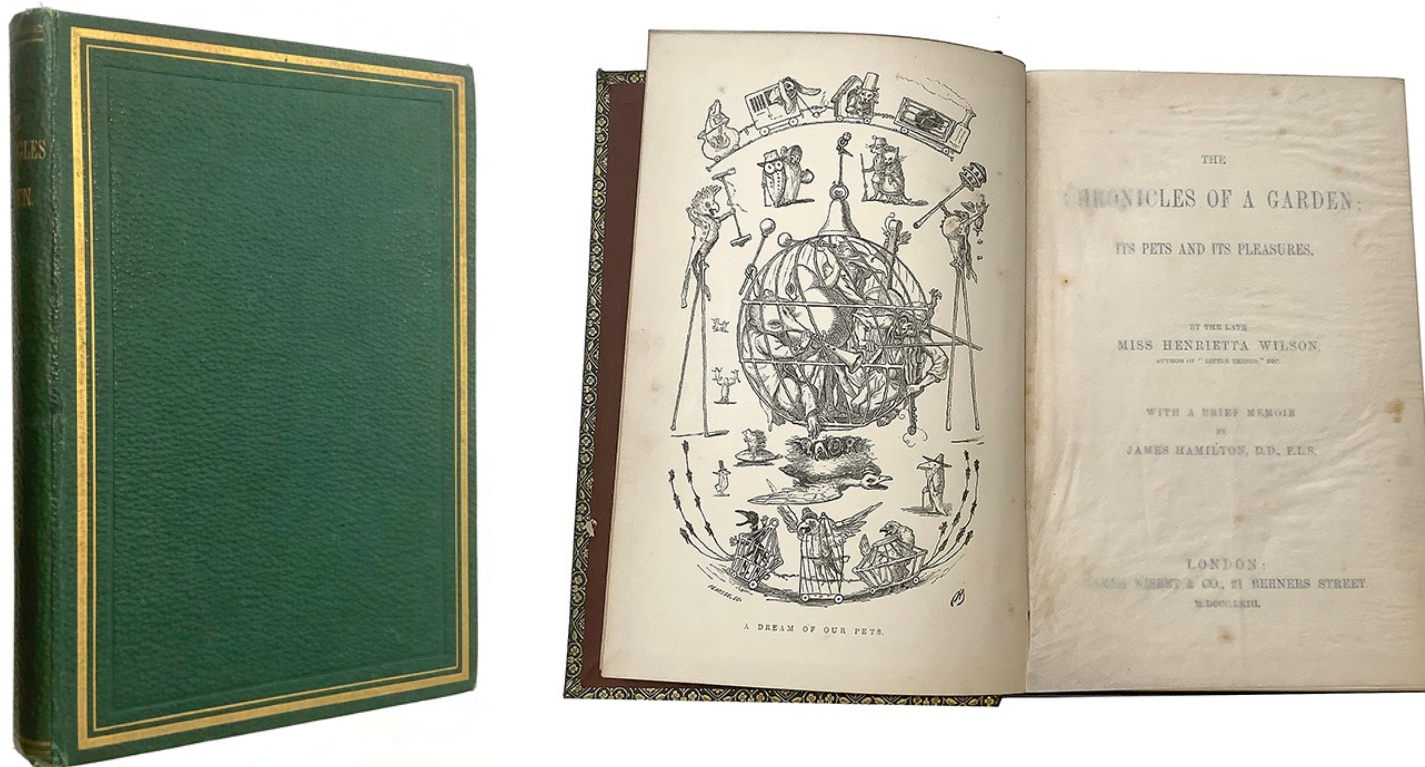


130. WILLEMENT, Emily Elizabeth. A Catechism on the History of Things in Common Use, and the events which led to their discovery and improvement, with a short explanation of some of the principal natural phenomena. For the use of Schools and Private Families. 174, [2]pp errata. Some light age toning to the paper, and inner hinges have some wear. Glazed yellow end-papers. Original horizontal rib-grained cloth, gilt lettered on the spine. A few marks to the boards and slight wear to the head and tail. Ownership name at the head of the title-page of John Hibbell, Yeovil, 1847. A few pencil strokes against passages of text, and one leaf torn in the blank outer margin. small square 8vo. Colchester: printed and published by J.B. Harvey, 95, High Street. 1844.

£180.00

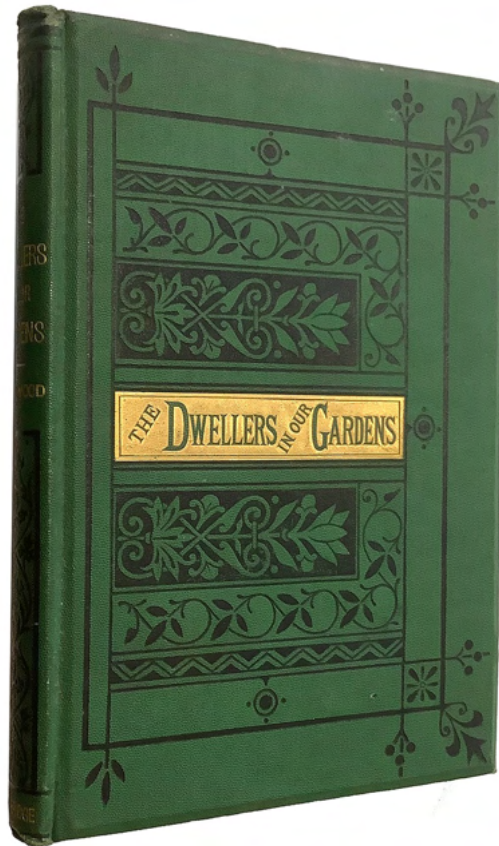
~ The first edition, unrecorded by Copac, which notes the London edition of 1845. Emily (1820-1904) was the daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth Willement (nee Sparling) of Norwich. Her father was a solicitor, alderman, and twice mayor of the city. In the 'introduction' she notes that "the task of writing it has been arduous, though a highly interesting one; it has cheered the tedious hours of an invalid, with the hope of its proving a source of help to a widowed mother."



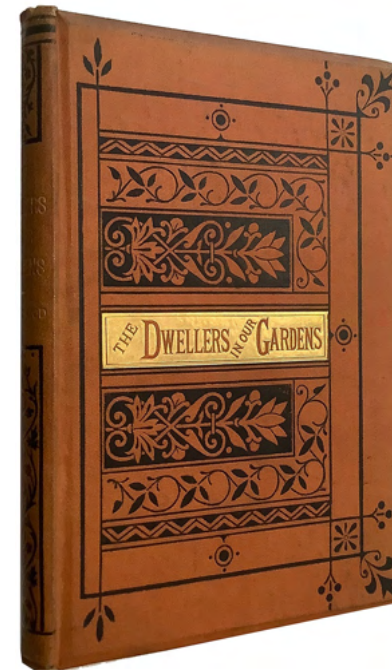


131. WILSON, Miss Henrietta. The Chronicles of a Garden: its Pets and Pleasures. With a brief memoir by James Hamilton. First edition. xvi, [4], 176, 12pp adverts., frontispiece and attractive engraved vignettes in the text. A very good copy in original dark green pebble grain cloth, gilt ruled borders, and gilt lettered spine. With the neat pencil ownership name at the head of the title-page, of A J. Milforce, Brighton, Xmas 1863." 8vo. James Nisbet and Co. 1864. £35.00

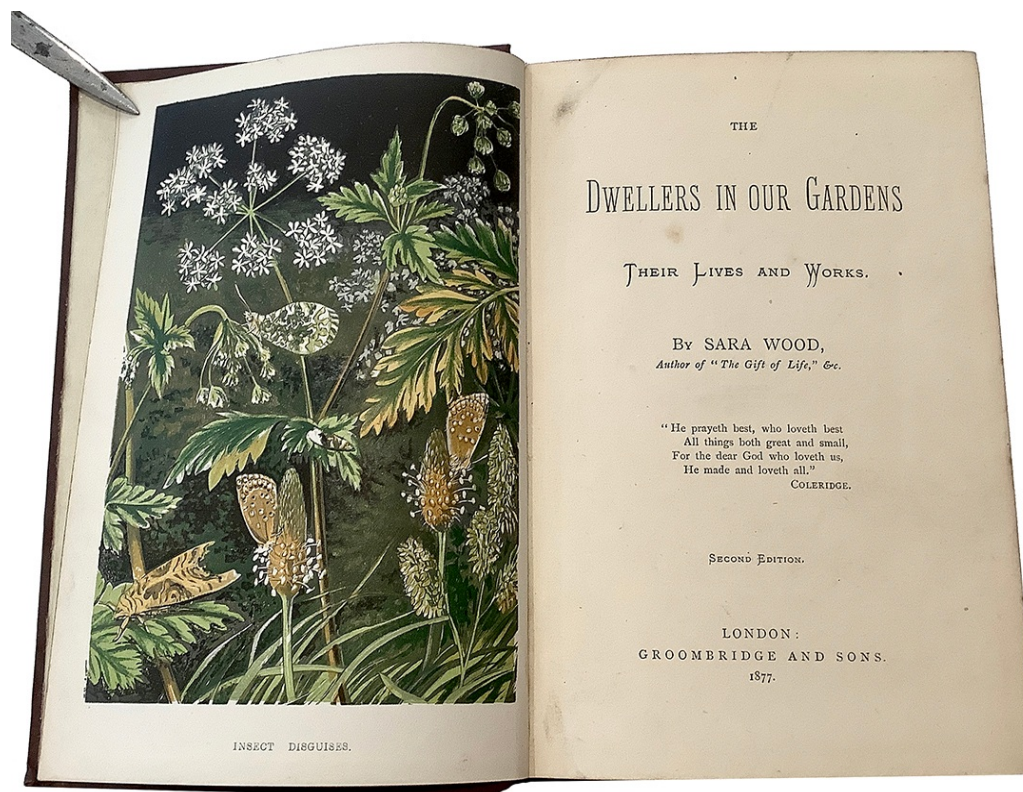
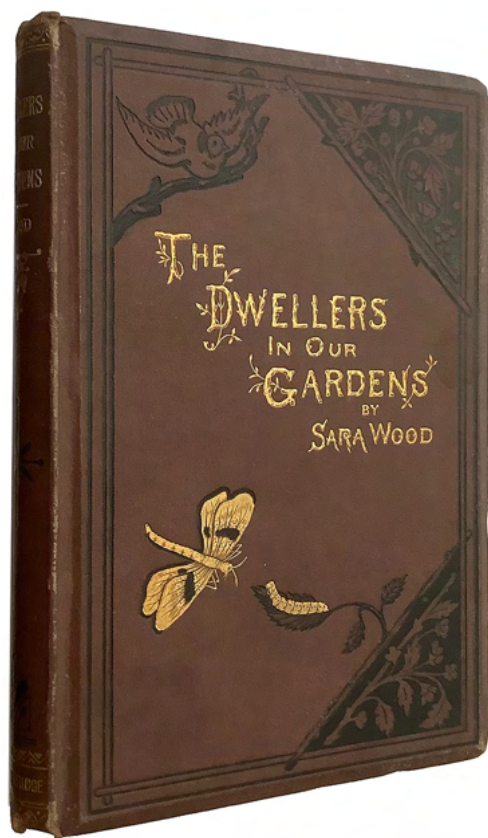
~ Henrietta lived in Queen Street, Edinburgh, and the preliminary memoir notes that this work was published to raise funds for the Medical Mission Sick-Nurse Fund; “contributions will be gratefully received by Mrs Sym, 37 George Square, Edinburgh.” She died young in June 1863, and this ‘chronicle’ records happier times spent in her uncle’s garden in Morningside, “her little paradise”. Henrietta was niece of Robert Wilson, cashier of Royal Bank of Scotland.



132. WOOD, Sara. *The Dwellers in our Gardens. Their Lives and Works.* First edition. [8], 184pp., 6 colour printed plates, and numerous text illustrations. A fine copy in bright original gilt and black decorated dark green cloth, all-edges-gilt. Final page partially adhered to the rear end-paper. 8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1875. £40.00

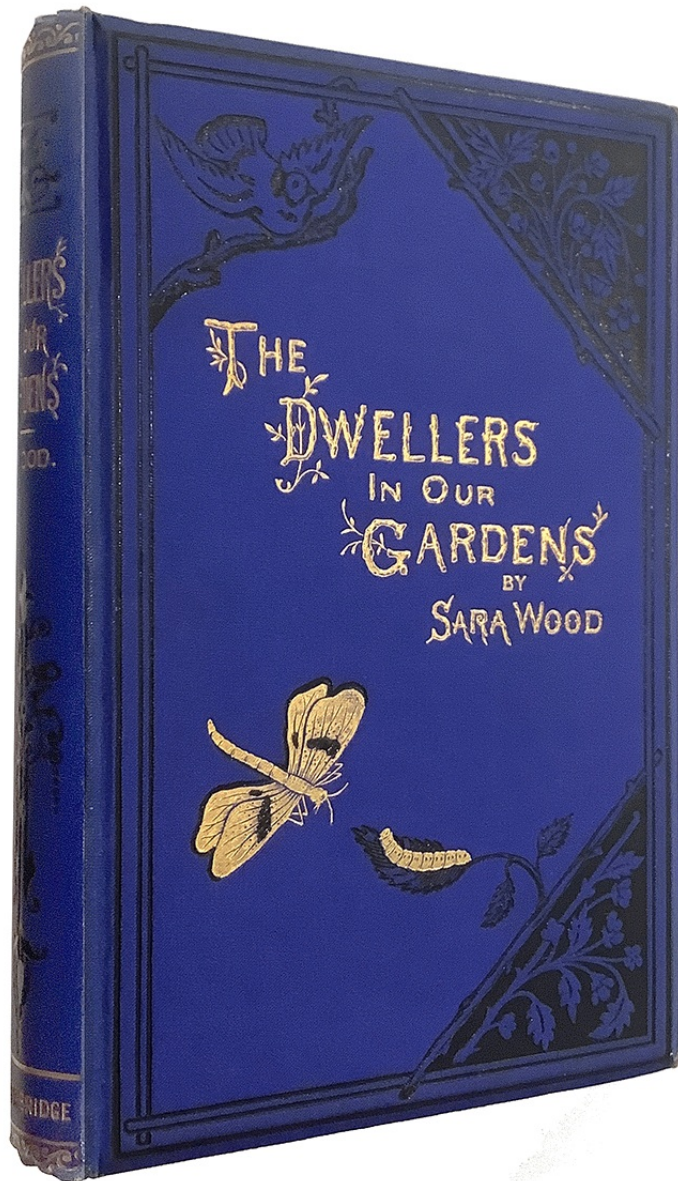


133. WOOD, Sara. *The Dwellers in our Gardens. Their Lives and Works.* First edition. [8], 184pp., 6 colour printed plates, and numerous text illustrations. A fine copy in bright original gilt and black decorated brown cloth, all-edges-gilt. 8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1875. £40.00



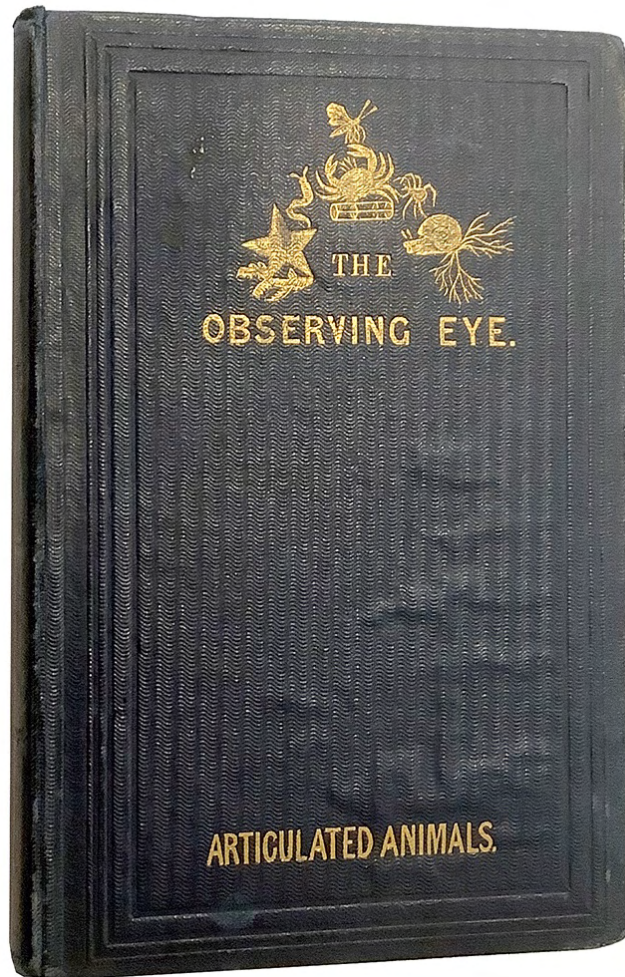
134. WOOD, Sara. *The Dwellers in our Gardens. Their Lives and Works.* Second edition. [8], 184pp., 6 colour printed plates, and numerous text illustrations. A very good copy in bright original gilt and black decorated dark brown cloth, all-edges-gilt. 8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1877. £35.00

~ The second edition has a redesigned binding with a gilt butterfly and caterpillar in place of the geometric pattern of the first edition. Scarce, Copac records Oxford only.



135. WOOD, Sara. *The Dwellers in our Gardens. Their Lives and Works.* [8], 184pp., 6 colour printed plates, and numerous text illustrations. A fine copy in bright original gilt and black decorated dark blue cloth, all-edges-gilt. 8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1888. £30.00

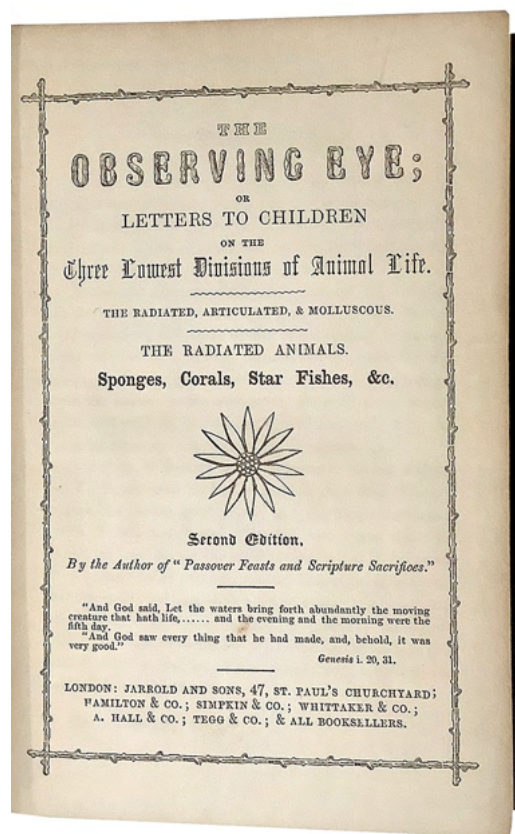
~ This edition retains the second edition redesigned binding with a gilt butterfly and caterpillar in place of the geometric pattern of the first edition. Scarce, Copac records Cambridge only.



136. [WRIGHT, Anne]. *The Observing Eye. Letters to Children on the Three Lowest Divisions of Animal Life. The Radiated, Articulated & Molluscular. The Articulated Animals'. Worms, Lobsters, Spiders and Insects.* [8], 134pp., table, text illustrations. Original blind stamped and gilt lettered dark blue cloth. Old paste-mark to the title-page, and lacks the front-end-paper.
12mo. Jarrold & Sons, Norwich. [1850]. £45.00

The first edition, the preface dated Buxton, November, 1850. Scarce, Copac records Aberdeen, and Oxford only of this first printing. Contemporary advertisements for this title announce that "it is used by the Royal Children, as well as in many a familiar circle, and in the schools of the poor."

~ Anne Wright (died 1861), was married to John Wright of Buxton, suffered from frequent illness, and during one particularly long period of confinement, she decided to learn about natural history. These were written in a series of letters addressed to a young audience, and friends urged her to have them published. They appeared anonymously, and *The Observing Eye* passed through five editions by 1859. In 1853 her husband founded a reformatory school for young offenders, at which she taught, and her lectures on birds later appeared in the volume *What is a Bird* (1857). Jarrold, her publishers persuaded her to write a treatise on geology for the young and lower-class readers, and in 1859 it first appeared in small monthly numbers, before being gathered into this book form. A 'Brief Memorial' of her life was published in 1861.



137. [WRIGHT, Anne]. The Observing Eye; or Letters to Children on the three lowest divisions of animal life. The Radiated, Articulated, & Molluscos. Second edition. Three parts in one. [8], 122, [8], 134, [2], iv, [2], 64pp., *each part with decorative title page and black and white line-drawings within the text*. Original blind and gilt stamped dark blue cloth, endpapers with advertisements. A clean copy with no previous owners' markings or inscriptions. Slight fading to spine and light wear to top and base.

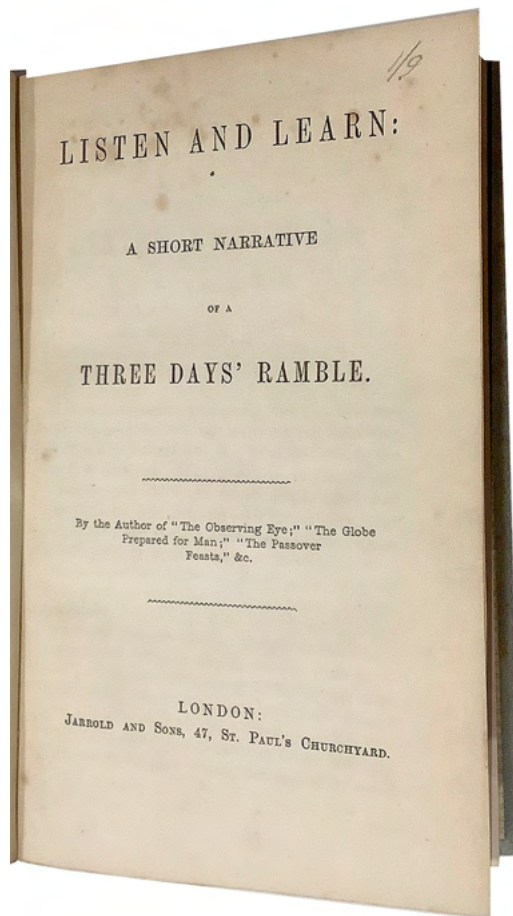
12mo. Jarrold and Sons. [1851].

£95.00

"Most of the following letters... were addressed to a young family, in consequence of questions started by an intelligent boy of about eight years of age..."

~ First published in 1850. Anne Wright's most well-known work was *The Observing Eye*. It received great critical acclaim, the geologist, Hugh Miller, saying "[The Observing Eye] is quite a model of the way in which the study of living nature ought to be brought before the minds of children." In fact, this work was chosen by Queen Victoria to be in the collection that was to be read by the royal children. Wright herself took an interest in geology, sometimes gathering and studying different specimens.





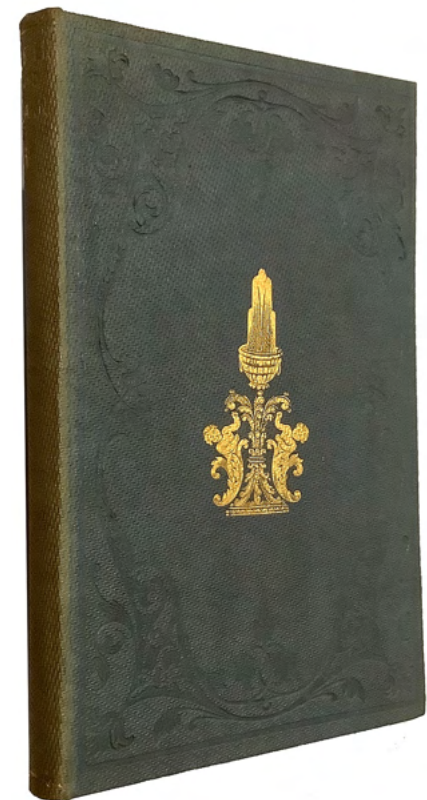
138. [WRIGHT, Anne]. Listen and Learn: a short narrative of a three days' ramble. First edition. [2], 141, [1]p. A near fine copy in original publisher's blue cloth, stamped in gilt and blind. Slightest of marking to extremities, spine sunned. Publisher's advertisements on end-papers, lightly foxed.

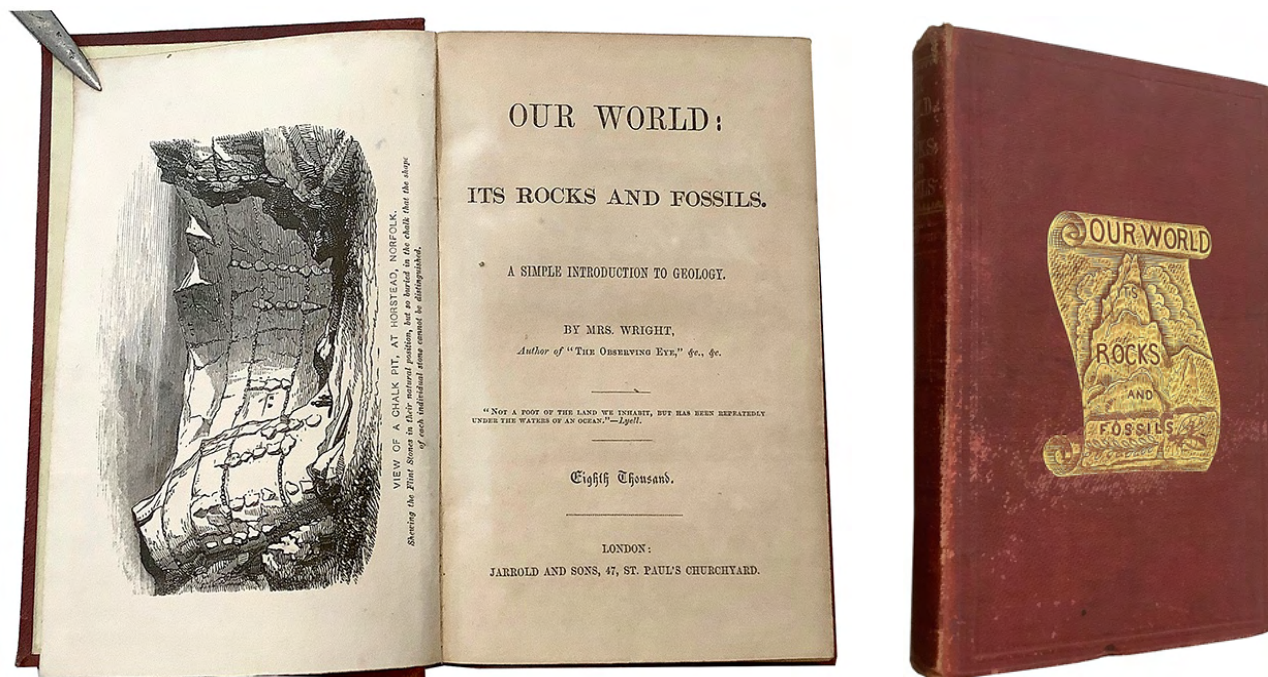
12mo. Jarrold and Sons, [1856].

£75.00

~ The sole edition of this educational narrative by Anne Wright. The tale, centred around a father and his three children delighting in an excursion through the picturesque

English countryside, promotes moral fortitude and the adherence to Christian virtues whilst concurrently providing entertaining asides on a broad range of subjects, including British history and zoology. Several footnotes provide information on sources. COPAC records copies at three locations (BL, Cambridge, and NLS).





139. WRIGHT, Anne. *Our World: its Rocks and Fossils. A simple introduction to Geology.* Eighth thousand. vi, [2], 256, [8]pp adverts., frontispiece of a chalk pit at Horstead, Norfolk, and numerous text illustrations. Original red gilt cloth, some rubbing, but a good copy. With a presentation inscription from the author's husband, "Georgina G. Cubitt from John Wright." 8vo. Jarrold and Sons. [1859]. £20.00

~ Anne Wright (died 1861), was married to John Wright of Buxton, suffered from frequent illness, and during one particularly long period of confinement, she decided to learn about natural history. These were written in a series of letters addressed to a young audience, and friends urged her to have them published. They appeared anonymously, and *The Observing Eye* passed through five editions by 1859. In 1853 her husband founded a reformatory school for young offenders, at which she taught, and her lectures on birds later appeared in the volume *What is a Bird* (1857). Jarrold, her publishers persuaded her to write a treatise on geology for the young and lower-class readers, and in 1859 it first appeared in small monthly numbers, before being gathered into this book form. A 'Brief Memorial' of her life was published in 1861.



140. ZORNLIN, Rosina M. *The World of Waters. Recreations in Hydrology*. Second edition, revised. x, [2], 347, [3], 6pp adverts., half-title., engraved frontispiece of the Falls of Powerscourt, and woodcut plates and text illustrations. A very good copy bound in original blind stamped and gilt lettered brown cloth, lemon yellow end-papers. Nineteenth century Council of Education stamp on the title-page and final page of the text.
8vo. John W. Parker. 1850. £45.00

~ “Rosina Zornlin (1795-1859), an invalid for much of her life, took great comfort in her writing. With over nine science books to her credit, and a career that spanned the 1830s up to the 1850s, Zornlin was well known to the early Victorian reading audience. Zornlin was the second daughter of John Jacob Zornlin, a successful investment broker in London, and Elizabeth Alsager.”

Ref: *Victorian Popularizers of Science: Designing Nature for New Audiences*. By Bernard Lightman. 2009.