

# The Collected Letters of Harriet Martineau

General Editor: **Deborah Logan**

Advisory Editor: **Valerie Sanders**

*The Pickering Masters*

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From 2007 all ISBNs will have 13 digits.

The new ISBN will be 978 1 85196 804 6.

Throughout her fifty-year career, Harriet Martineau's prolific literary output was matched only by her exchanges with a range of high-profile British, American and European correspondents. *The Collected Letters of Harriet Martineau* provides a long-awaited, timely and scholarly edition of the extant letters of this prolific Victorian writer.

Scattered throughout the United States and United Kingdom, almost all of the 2,000 letters reproduced in this collection have never before been published. Newly transcribed in five volumes, the set focuses on the letters Martineau wrote herself, contextualizing the correspondence through annotation of the highest standard.

As in her literary work, in her correspondence Martineau comments freely on such topics as the Reform Bill controversy, the Poor Law reform, The American Civil War, American abolitionism and slavery. Besides giving a unique insight into Martineau's domestic relationships, Martineau's correspondence with Florence Nightingale on issues such as health reform uniquely blends personal and professional matters. Throughout her life, as this edition shows, Martineau managed to exert her influence on political and social circles, even from her distant Lake District home.

This is essential reading for every scholar of Victorian biography. Yet given the broad content of Martineau's correspondence, it is also relevant to research in the wider disciplines of nineteenth-century studies, women's studies, literature, empire studies, slavery and cultural studies.

## Editorial board

**Deborah Logan** is at Western Kentucky University

**Valerie Sanders** is at the University of Hull



*Portrait of Harriet Martineau, from Evert Augustus Duyckinck, Portrait Gallery of eminent Men and Women of Europe and America (1872-74)*

- The material draws on source material held in the USA, UK and Australia, including the University of Birmingham (UK), University of California at Berkeley, the British Library, National Library of Scotland, the Women's Library (Guildhall, London), and Harris-Manchester College, Oxford
- Most of this newly transcribed material has never been published before
- Extensive annotation provides biographical, social, political, and historical context, including a biographical directory in Volume 1
- General introduction
- Consolidated index

**The Pickering  
Masters**



The Knoll, Harriet Martineau's home in Ambleside, Herbert Bell (c.1890)  
Courtesy of the The Armitt Trust

## Contents

### Volume 1

This volume comprises letters from Martineau's early years through to the mid-1830s, including family letters and publishing correspondence relating to the *Illustrations of Political Economy*. The early correspondence reveals her coming-of-age as an intellectual young woman and self-supporting writer.

### Volume 2

This volume takes Martineau's story forward through the 1830s and 40s. It includes correspondence from her American journeys, her years of invalidism in Tynemouth and her letters on mesmerism. It closes in the 1840s with her move to Ambleside.

### Volumes 3 and 4

These volumes cover the 1850s and early 1860s. Despite her severe invalidism, this was Martineau's most prolific period, both as a writer and correspondent. Her journalistic output increased and her attention turned to current national and international affairs. Central themes of this volume are American abolitionism, Ireland, India, British imperial politics and sanitary

reform in the British military. Also included are her philosophical *Letters on the Laws of Man's Nature and Development*. Correspondents include the editors of the *Daily News* (for whom she wrote 1852–66), Henry Reeve of the *Edinburgh Review* and Florence Nightingale. The Martineau letters to Nightingale included here have never before been published.

### Volume 5

This volume covers the late 1860s and 70s, when illness and age increasingly limited Martineau's productivity. Three appendices contain correspondence written by Maria and Jane Martineau at Harriet's dictation; shorthand transcriptions by James Martineau, when Harriet requested the destruction of her correspondence, and transcriptions made by James of the lost originals. Extant material relating to correspondence between Martineau and Elizabeth J Reid is also included.

Harriet Martineau

## Sample letter from Volume 3

To William Wells Brown

The Knoll, Ambleside

14 March [1851]

Dear Mr Brown<sup>1</sup>

I have the pleasure to tell you that our friends, the Crafts,<sup>2</sup> are to be gratified, & in the best possible way, in their wish for Education.

I told you I wd apply to Lady Byron,<sup>3</sup> to learn whether they cd be received into one of her Industrial Schools; – they teaching Cabinet-making & sewing in return for Education & maintenance. I heard yesterday from Lady Byron; & the thing can be done.

Her only child is the wife of Lord Lovelace.<sup>4</sup> Their estate is at Ockham, – which is, I think, in Hampshire, – or Surrey, I am not sure which.<sup>5</sup> The Ockham School is the one in which William & Ellen can be received, on payment of a small sum, which can, no doubt, be raised. Lady Byron will herself contribute. One very great advantage will be that they will be under the eye, & the immediate care, of the Lushington family, & of the excellent Dr Lushington himself.<sup>6</sup> He is an illustrious man in various ways; &, among others, as the friend of the slave: & his & Lady Byron's names are so honoured in America that it will be a gain to the good cause that Wm & Ellen shd be known to be under their immediate protection. – I hope this news will appear as good to you & to them as it does to your friends in this valley. – I have written to tell Mr Estlin, & Mr Bishop of Liverpool.<sup>7</sup>

Now, you must please just let me know whether the Crafts accept this offer: & how soon they will wish to settle at Ockham; & whether they are themselves able to pay any part of the small sum required. I write today to Lady Byron, to inquire how much it is, & more particulars about their settlement. – So I must now wish you good bye. – Your friends here are all well; & we look back with much pleasure on your visit. – Pray give my kind regards to Wm & Ellen, & believe me, dear Mr. Brown, very truly yours

Harriet Martineau.

1 William Wells Brown (ca.1814–84), born into slavery in Lexington, Kentucky, from which he escaped in 1834. Termed one of William Lloyd Garrison's 'protégées,' Brown became one of the Abolition movement's most vigorous activists, working on the Underground Railroad (between Lake Erie and Canada) and lecturing for the New York Anti-Slavery and the American Anti-Slavery Societies. Brown's 1853 novel *Clotel*, about the relationship between Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, is the first-known novel written by an African-American. Wells visited Martineau in Ambleside, during the lecture-tour he shared with William and Emily Craft.

2 In 1848, Georgia slaves William (d. 1900) and Emily Craft (d. 1890) escaped to Philadelphia. Emily was disguised as a manservant assisting her ailing 'master,' light-skinned husband William. The Crafts' escape is recorded in *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom* (1860). The narrative acknowledges Harriet Martineau as among those responsible for arranging the Crafts' welcome, support, and education while in England. Martineau hosted the Crafts in Ambleside, where the couple lectured in 1851 to raise funds for the Abolition movement.

3 Annabella Milbanke Noel, Lady Byron (1792–1860), married Lord Byron (1788–1824) in 1815. The two were permanently separated soon after, following the birth of their only child.

4 Augusta Ada Byron, Lady Lovelace (1815–52), daughter of George Gordon, Lord Byron and Annabella Miblanke Noel. She married William King Noel, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Lovelace (1805–93) in 1835. A gifted mathematician who associated with Charles Babbage, Lady Lovelace is today credited as one of the earliest theorists of computer science.

5 Ockham Industrial School in Surrey at Ockham Park, the Lovelace estate. The Crafts studied with the Misses Lushington and Thomas Wilson, Esq.

6 Dr. Stephen Lushington (1782–1873), abolitionist activist, was a friend of and advisor to Lady Byron.

7 Reverend Francis Bishop sheltered the Crafts on their arrival in Liverpool, prior to their stay with John Estlin (1786–1855), eye-surgeon, Unitarian social reformer, and abolition activist, in Bristol.

## Related titles

### Harriet Martineau's Writing on the British Empire

General Editor: **Deborah Logan**

Advisory Editors: **Antoinette Burton** and **Kitty Sklar**

Preface: **Patrick Brantlinger**

'Today, most colleges and universities offer classes on 19th-century imperialism, perhaps reflecting efforts to understand the 21st-century variations on power and control. One of the difficulties inherent in teaching undergraduates about the past outside of the US has been the paucity of primary documents. This valuable collection of the writings of Harriet Martineau solves this problem and then some ... These volumes offer an invaluable resource for beginning as well as informed students in a large number of subject areas involving the 19th-century world. **Summing Up: Essential. All levels and libraries.**' – CHOICE

*The Pickering Masters*

5 Volume Set: 1592pp: 2004

1 85196 768 0: £450/\$750

### Harriet Martineau's Writing on British History and Military Reform

General Editor: **Deborah Logan**

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This reset edition of Harriet Martineau's historical writings consists primarily of the *History of the Peace: Being a History of England from 1816 to 1854*, and the introductory *History of England, AD 1800 to 1815*. Martineau's account of British history from the turn of the nineteenth century to the Crimean War is expertly supplemented by previously unpublished correspondence between Martineau and Florence Nightingale, and by Martineau's *England and Her Soldiers* (1859). Martineau's leader articles on health issues for the *Daily News*, the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Once a Week* round up the edition.

*The Pickering Masters*

6 Volume Set: 2590pp: 2005

1 85196 797 4: £495/\$840

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