



Journals of Lady Knightley of Fawsley, 1885-1913

Julia Cartwright

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This historic English volume is from 1915.

" A PERFECT woman nobly plann'd,
To warn, to comfort and command,
And yet a creature still and bright
With something of angelic light."
- WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

"A Diary need not be a dreary chronicle of one's movements, it should aim rather at giving a salient account of some particular episode, a walk, a book, a conversation. It is a practice which brings its own reward; it is a singularly delightful thing to look at old diaries, to see how one was occupied ten years ago, what one was reading ; the people one was meeting, one's earlier point of view."
- ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER BENSON

From the book's Preface:

These selections from the private Journals of the late Lady Knightley are given to the world in obedience to her own wishes. Some years ago, she expressed a hope that it might be possible to publish some portions of her Journals, and asked me to undertake the task. This request was confirmed in a letter found among her papers after her death. " Not," the writer added modestly, " that the story of my life is worth telling, but because, I think, some of the things that it contains may interest and amuse my friends, and possibly appeal to a wider public." The present volume begins with the Journal first started by Lady Knightley in 1856, and carries the story down to the year 1884. This period includes the whole of her childhood and youth, as well as fifteen years of her married life, and ends with the death of the Duke of Albany, with whom she had been closely connected in the lifetime of her father, Sir Edward Bowater. Some parts of the Journal, relating to important public events or family affairs, have been supplemented by passages from Lady Knightley's weekly letters to her mother, Lady Bowater, who lived to an advanced age and only died, at her home in Richmond Park, in the year 1892. This correspondence has also been placed in my hands, in accordance with Lady Knightley's last wishes, and

has enabled me to add several characteristic touches to the picture of her life and surroundings that is so vividly set forth in these Journals.

- JULIA CARTWRIGHT

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