Women’s Writing

The later twentieth century saw a huge wave of academic interest in women’s writing, which led to the rediscovery of neglected works from a wide range of genres, periods and languages. Many books that were immensely popular and influential in their own day are now studied again, both for their own sake and for what they reveal about the social, political and cultural conditions of their time. A pioneering resource in this area is Orlando: Women’s Writing in the British Isles from the Beginnings to the Present (http://orlando.cambridge.org), which provides entries on authors’ lives and writing careers, contextual material, timelines, sets of internal links, and bibliographies. Its editors have made a major contribution to the selection of the works reissued in this series within the Cambridge Library Collection, which focuses on non-fiction publications by women on a wide range of subjects from astronomy to biography, music to political economy, and education to prison reform.

The Morality of Marriage

Mona Caird (1854–1932) was a British novelist and early radical feminist social critic who insisted on maintaining her independence after marrying. Her 1888 article ‘Marriage’, in which she criticised marriage for limiting and subordinating women and called for equality between partners, sparked a furious controversy, and brought her widespread recognition. This volume, first published in 1897, contains a collection of Caird’s feminist essays. She analyses the indignities marriage caused for women, both historically and contemporaneously, and advocates both equality in marriage (including in domestic duties) and women’s economic independence. Caird also examines and criticises contemporary ideals of motherhood, discussing legislation and changes in social attitudes which would improve the lives of mothers. This volume presents a detailed account of controversial late-Victorian radical feminist views and criticisms. For more information on this author, see http://orlando.cambridge.org/public/svPeople?person_id=cairmo
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The Morality of Marriage

And Other Essays on the Status and Destiny of Woman

Mona Caird
THE

MORALITY OF MARRIAGE

AND OTHER ESSAYS ON THE STATUS
AND DESTINY OF WOMAN

BY

MONA CAIRD

"J'ai bien peur que cette nature ne soit elle-même qu'une première coutume, comme la coutume est une seconde nature."
—Pascal.

LONDON

GEORGE REDWAY

1897
TO WOMEN

"In the name of your years of anguish,
In the name of the curse and the stain,
By the strength of your sorrow, I call you
By the power of your pain."

CHARLOTTE STETSON.
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