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978-1-107-60496-4 - The Story of Fanny Burney: Being an Introduction to the
Diary & Letters of Madame d' Arblay

Muriel Masfield

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By
MURIEL MASEFIELD, B.A.
(Mrs Charles Masefield)

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To

MY GOD-DAUGHTERS

ROSALIND & JOAN

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PREFACE

THE aim of this book is to do for the *Diary and Letters of Madame d'Arbly* what Mr S. C. Roberts' *Story of Doctor Johnson* has aimed at doing for Boswell's *Life*; that is, to provide a brief introduction to a fascinating, but lengthy, record of eighteenth-century life.

The professed student of literature will, of course, easily do without an introduction either to Fanny Burney or to the world in which she lived; he can read the text of the *Diary and Letters* in its entirety. But there are others with an equally genuine, if less learned, interest in the eighteenth century who may perhaps welcome a little book which presents the main outlines of Fanny's social picture. To such readers this outline is offered, in the hope that by it they may be led to study the greater detail of the original canvas.

M. M.

January 1927

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Thanks are due to Mrs F. Leverton Harris for permission to reproduce the frontispiece and the illustrations facing pp. 26 and 102; to Messrs John Lane, Ltd. for supplying blocks for these three pictures; and to Mr George Bayntun, of Bath, for the block of the picture facing p. 12

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